



Yorkshire Bird Report 2007



Yorkshire

Bird Report 2007

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The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

The YNU is a registered charity founded in 1861. It is a federation of individual members and natural history societies based on the historic county of Yorkshire. Its aims are to study and record the county's wildlife and habitats, to publish its results and to encourage the use of that data to help conserve wildlife and habitats.

The YNU annually publishes four copies of the Naturalist, two Bulletins, and a Bird Report and, jointly with Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire, a Lepidoptera Report. In addition the YNU has published a number of books in recent years. Its annual report may be downloaded from its website at www.ynu.org.uk

The YNU is organised into sections covering various disciplines of natural history and as well as staging various field meetings, it holds an annual conference every March. It works closely with various statutory organisations such as Natural England, the region's local record centres and many other wildlife and conservation charities. In order to increase the understanding of future generations of Naturalists, the YNU also organises a series of training events through the year; membership is open to all who support the Charity's aims and objectives.

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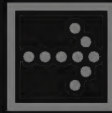
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This Report covers all 300 species recorded within the county during 2007 and includes three additions to the Yorkshire list: Pacific Diver (also first for Britain), American Robin and Brown Flycatcher (second for Britain). Taking into account the recent acceptance of all three, the official Yorkshire List therefore stands at 443; this total does not include any firsts for the county that have occurred since 2007.

Where applicable, YNU’s Birds Section and the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) have accepted all rare and unusual species published within this Report.

In a subtle departure from previous years, this Report details all birds occurring within the current political boundaries of Yorkshire & Cleveland south of the Tees; for recording purposes, this area is divided into the five relevant Watsonian vice-counties (VCs 61-65). The rationale for this move was to streamline areas already covered by neighbouring societies, such as Durham and Lancashire and so avoid records being duplicated in two or more county reports.

The VCs each have their own recorder and their contact details are listed on the previous page. A map depicting the recording area covered by this Report is found on the inside back cover. The Herbaria*United* website www.herbariaunited.org/gridrefVC/ will attribute any grid reference to a respective VC; information on site grid references are easily obtained from the online Ordnance Survey “Get a Map” facility, or from the site directories on www.birdguides.com.

Description Requirements

It is our aim to present these Reports with complete accuracy, so that those who use them in the future may accept the species accounts without doubt or query. An Adjudication Panel assists the work of the Birds Section by assessing all national and county rarities that require a description. The Panel consists of the following members: Mick Cunningham, Geoff Dobbs, Paul Irving, Mike Pilsworth, Graham Speight, Garry Taylor, Craig Thomas, Nick Whitehouse and Steve Worwood. If more than one member of the Panel is unwilling to support a record, it will remain ‘not proven’. It must be stressed this doesn’t necessarily mean that the bird has been mis-identified, but more often, that there is not enough detail to be conclusive.

British Birds Rarities Committee

All national rarities must be first described and accepted by BBRC to be included in the Yorkshire Report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will then forward it on immediately, which follows BBRC’s preferred method of record submission; the Birds Section abides by any decision made by BBRC. A list of species for which descriptions are required by BBRC is available at www.bbrc.org.uk.

Yorkshire Rarities

The following list of county rarities requires a description and/or photographic evidence to secure the acceptance needed for publication within this Report.

In addition, the Birds Section reserves the right not to publish records of scarce birds which cannot be attributed to a named observer and are unsupported by photographic evidence.

Taiga Bean Goose	Black Kite	Caspian Gull	Subalpine Warbler
Black Brant	White-tailed Eagle	Ring-billed Gull	Greenish Warbler
American Wigeon	Montagu’s Harrier	White-winged Black Tern	Radde’s Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Rough-legged Buzzard	Alpine Swift	Dusky Warbler
Surf Scoter	Golden Eagle	Short-toed Lark	Woodchat Shrike
White-billed Diver	Red-footed Falcon	Red-rumped Swallow	Red-billed Chough
Wilson’s Storm-petrel	Kentish Plover	Tawny Pipit	Arctic Redpoll
Black-crowned Night Heron	American Golden Plover	Red-throated Pipit	Parrot Crossbill
Cattle Egret	White-rumped Sandpiper	Aquatic Warbler	Cirl Bunting
Great White Egret	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Marsh Warbler	Rustic Bunting
Purple Heron	Red-necked Phalarope	Melodious Warbler	Little Bunting
European Honey-buzzard	<i>[flight only]</i>	Dartford Warbler	

The Panel will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review, including Black-bellied Dipper and Siberian Chiffchaff.

In the cases of closely related species groups, such as American/Pacific Golden Plover, the Pratincole and the Dowitcher species, BBRC will not judge records where no specific identification has been reached. Therefore the Adjudication Panel will consider such records for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The Panel is also willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local groups and societies.

Descriptions

The work of the Adjudication Panel can be aided considerably if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison and previous experience of the species. If anyone disagrees with the identification should also be noted. The Birds Section welcomes the electronic submission of records and photographs, with the provision that some detail is supplied about location, first/last dates and the name(s) of the finder(s). Rarity description forms can be obtained by email from any of the contacts listed on page 4.

If the finder/identifier has not submitted the record, but a photograph has been published in a magazine or on the internet, the magazine/website will be credited.



Notes taken in a field sketch book © Ray Scally

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Highlights



The now annual Snow Goose made a coastal flypast during its autumn return to Norfolk and a mid September appearance coincided with an early return by large numbers of Pink-feet. An immature female Ferruginous Duck discovered on Hornsea Mere in late August might not have won prizes for aesthetics, but was the first county record since a one-day bird in January 2001.

The continued recovery of Black Grouse populations in the Yorkshire Dales National Park illustrated the benefit of targeted conservation schemes; survey work located 144 lekking males, as opposed to a mere 51 in 2000. The Western Palearctic's first ever Pacific Diver produced the year's biggest surprise; showing well from mid January at Farnham GP, it provided an identification tutorial for large numbers of birders. September disappointed for drift passerines, but coastal birders enjoyed one of the best seawatching months for many years. Taking the major honours were unprecedented numbers of Great Shearwaters, with most headlands enjoying success and a best of 33 at Flamborough on 11th September.

Deluged by spells of heavy rain, the summer weather was a huge disappointment and undoubtedly had a deleterious effect on the breeding success of many species. On a positive note, both Montagu's Harrier and Common Crane attempted to breed, although both were unsuccessful. A Pacific Golden Plover made a brief appearance at Spurn on 17th July and constituted only the fourth county record; the last appeared at the same site almost exactly three years earlier. However, the Spurn area pulled in an even better wader in September, when Sammy's Point hosted Yorkshire's second ever Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. With a gap of 25 years since the only previous, it would have attracted large crowds had a rising tide not pushed it off for good. Sabine's Gulls and Grey Phalaropes put an excellent show during autumn, with daily tallies of three of the former and five of the latter off Flamborough.

Many county birders had been scouring the coast for Red-flanked Bluetail for years without success, but then just like buses along came two. The first unexpectedly appeared at Easington in late March and for those lucky enough to get there early, equally unexpected was its sudden death. Compensation for those suffering the blues came when Flamborough claimed the second in October. The discovery of a male Desert Wheatear enlivened a cliff top walk at Cromer Point, Burniston in late November and subsequently many a birder appreciated its stay into the New Year. Amazingly, during the course of the year, Thorngumbald ended up challenging the supremacy of the coastal

headlands; initially with the county's first ever spring Olive-backed Pipit, which remained in a suburban garden for a day. Thorngumbald's second 'sibe' was a White's Thrush, picked up dead after colliding with a window; most were very thankful of the recent Kilnsea bird! Continuing the thrush theme, a first-winter female Black-throated at Buckton delighted county listers for three days in early spring and proved to be the county's first ever twitchable example. However, Yorkshire's first American Robin drew an even bigger audience to Gilstead near Bingley from early January. After the first report, initial searches drew a blank, but there were smiles all round when photographs circulated, and the thrush's favoured feeding areas pinned down.

Blyth's Reed Warblers are not the rarity they once were, but the simultaneous arrival of singles at Flamborough and Spurn on 6th October was still significant. However, most Yorkshire birders probably appreciated the long-staying Melodious Warbler at Flamborough in late August more. Recent years has seen the Yorkshire coast starting to attract rare Siberian vagrants previously the preserve of Shetland. The UK's second-ever Brown Flycatcher at Flamborough on 3rd/4th October was no better example and delighted over 800 birders until its unfortunate departure on a Friday evening; adding to local interest, an Isabelline Shrike showed well up the road at Buckton around the same time. Almost as surprising was the discovery of a Woodchat Shrike in a back garden near St James's Hospital, Leeds on 4th June, which remained long enough to be snapped by a local newspaper hack.



Black Grouse (Yorkshire Dales NP) © John Smith



Eider (Ingbirchworth) ► David Pennington

Calendar



JANUARY

The month remained mild, with westerly winds maintaining temperatures above freezing and bringing heavy rain, especially in the second week. New Year trips to either Scaling Dam or Filey Bay were rewarded with good views of Long-tailed Ducks, with the added bonus of up to six Great Northern Divers at the latter site; further south, 17 Tundra Bean Geese dropped into fields at West Carlton on the opening day. Another remnant from 2006, the drake American Wigeon remained at Tophill Low until mid-March. Although numbers of Water Pipits were undoubtedly wintering along the Humber, obtaining good views was frustratingly difficult, so the single that wintered around Cromer Point, Scarborough was much appreciated.

Winter storms and associated strong westerlies were unquestionably responsible for displacing Leach’s Petrels to Sand Hutton on 2nd and Fewston Res the following day; unfortunately both were picked up dead. Single Bitterns wintered at both Old Moor and Winterset, with two at Pugneys and up to six gave fantastic views at Potteric Carr. However, the most significant event of the first week was a ‘slow-burn’, with the first sighting of Gilstead’s American Robin failing to make the headlines. It wasn’t until the final week that this Yorkshire first was finally pinned down and then rewarded most with fantastic views. A Firecrest wintering at the same site also attracted the attention of the birding ‘paparazzi’.

Testing arithmetic skills was a flock of 15,000 Golden Plovers at Paull Holme Strays on 6th, but most attention was focused along the coast; fifteen Great Northern Divers and two Slavonian Grebes were logged between Redcar and Saltburn, while single Black-throated Diver and Red-necked Grebe both stayed for several days off Saltburn. However, South Gare contributed the best prize with a twitchable Black Guillemot from 6th, while further south single Slavonian and Red-necked Grebes brightened a winter visit to Filey.

There was plenty to occupy the inland birder, with the Shore Lark continuing to winter near Halifax and the drake Ring-necked Duck making intermittent appearances at Hemlington Lake, Middlesbrough, while a drake Green-winged Teal was photographed at Bretton Park on 7th. The Lower Derwent Valley hosted the only substantial herd of Whooper Swans that peaked over 100, further augmented by a single Bewick’s Swan.

The importance of a diver on Farnham GP on 12th escalated the following day, following its identification as Europe’s first ever Pacific; thankfully it stayed into February, giving many visitors the chance to appreciate a subtle identification. A creditable 178 Great Crested Grebes were offshore between Atwick and Barmston on 17th. Scanning through a group of Pink-footed Geese on 20th was rewarded with the discovery of four Tundra Bean Geese at Fairburn, but unfortunately they soon moved on. A Slavonian Grebe sheltered on Hornsea Mere on 23rd, while hardy seawatchers were rewarded with a Grey Phalarope off Flamborough the same day and a Sooty Shearwater that flew north there on 24th.

Larid enthusiasts enjoyed both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls at Spurn on 26th, with a Hooded Crow at Hornsea on the same date. Two more ‘Hoodies’ were found at Star Carr, Scarborough the next day and at least one remained in the vicinity of Seamer Tip until the first week in March. Reflecting the good numbers elsewhere, four Great Northern Divers were logged off the south side of Flamborough on 28th, with three Slavonian Grebes and one Red-necked also present. A Great Northern Diver started a several-week residence in Scarborough harbour from 31st and added to many a photographer’s portfolio. On this same date, a first-winter Night Heron was photographed by a non-birder along the river Calder between Castleford and New Swillington, but the photos didn’t surface until some while later; luckily it was in no rush to leave and most managed good views before it departed at the end of May.

FEBRUARY

Although the start of February featured some snow, the cold spell didn’t last long and winds reverted to a westerly quarter, re-establishing mild conditions. Pink-footed Geese had begun to move north out of Norfolk at the end of January, but activity peaked on 1st with 1000 north over Filey and 1120 west over Old Moor.

The value of the Humber was emphasised by an impressive count of waders at Paull Holme Strays on the opening day, with 1469 Curlew, 704 Bar-tailed Godwits, 30,000 Dunlin and 20,000 Lapwing all logged. Snow Buntings were in relatively low numbers along the coast, with noteworthy numbers confined to 43 at South Gare and 70 at Aldbrough. The benefits of environmental schemes

was illustrated at Flamborough, where coastal stubbles attracted impressive numbers of ‘farmland’ finches and buntings, together with up to 30 Twite and 12 Lapland Buntings.

Two adult Night Herons were photographed at Quarry Moor, Ripon on 2nd February and the images showed features consistent with the American race; unfortunately both were one-day wonders.

Waxwings remained scarce throughout the winter, so a flock of 30 at Skelton from 11th into March proved popular. Iceland Gulls put in a good showing at several sites, with three together at Bar Lane Quarry near Harrogate on 13th. Elsewhere, attention focused on wildfowl and 857 Brent Geese was an impressive tally at Long Bank, Easington on 16th. The following day a drake American Wigeon was identified amongst throngs of its much commoner cousins at Thorganby Ings. Almost certainly one of the two drakes lingering from 2006, it was to prove much more co-operative in March. Several Smew wintered on the waters around Tophill and they coalesced into a group of five at Watton on 18th. Calm conditions on 21st produced flat seas and a coordinated count between Atwick and Barmston produced 325 Red-throated Divers, while further north seven Lapland Buntings were discovered in coastal fields at Cowbar on 23rd and they remained into March. A drake Green-winged Teal appeared at West Carlton on 24th and the following day four different Iceland Gulls dropped in at Swillington; the month closed with a party of eight Waxwings trilling around Pickering.

MARCH

The month opened with a Green-winged Teal at Tophill on 1st, probably the same individual present at West Carlton a few days earlier. A Red-necked Grebe was off Flamborough on 3rd, followed by a Hooded Crow there the following day. The Mediterranean Gulls around Holbeck/South Bay, Scarborough had been ever present all winter and numbers peaked at eight on 4th and included one ringed in Serbia.

Spurn’s earliest ever Firecrest at Chalk Bank on 7th heralded spring, as did an exceptionally early Willow Warbler at Potteric Carr on 8th, followed by a Sand Martin there the next day. Another Firecrest made landfall at Spurn on 11th, with two more new arrivals the following day. Inland, the drake American Wigeon was finally pinned down in the Lower Derwent Valley; after an initial sighting of a drake on 13th, two were present in the same flock the following day and over the next week gave great views to visiting birders. Reminders of winter came from Flamborough, where single Black-throated and Great Northern Divers on 17th preceded an Iceland

Gull and two Little Auks on 21st. Immigration on 23rd came in the form of a Black Redstart at Flamborough and a Long-eared Owl at Spurn, while a pair of Garganey appeared at Pulfin Bog the following day.

The first Osprey headed over Keighley on 25th, when an exceptionally early Common Whitethroat appeared at Scarborough, but the day’s headlines were stolen by Yorkshire’s first-ever twitchable Black-throated Thrush at Buckton. A first-year female, it rewarded the conservation efforts of its two finders by performing well near the pond. The 27th witnessed a small arrival at Spurn, with four Firecrests amongst 29 Goldcrests, a Mealy Redpoll and Black Redstart. The tally of Firecrests increased at Spurn to five the next day, while two Black Redstarts and 200 Redwing were present along the peninsula on 30th. The month ended with a bang following the discovery of a Red-flanked Bluetail at Willow Cottage, Easington on 31st. Those quick off the mark were rewarded with good views, the bird feeding on the sheltered side of a hedge away from the bracing north-easterly wind; unfortunately, late comers were stunned when, after a brief ‘no show’, the bird was picked up dead!

APRIL

A Red-throated Diver appeared on Lingham Lake from 2nd, while eight Bean Geese over Scalby Lodge on 4th were finder’s keepers. A first-winter drake American Wigeon remained in the Lower Derwent Valley, where a Green-winged Teal was appreciated at North Duffield Carrs on 4th. Continuing the water bird theme, a Red-necked Grebe was discovered on an inland pond at Weel on 8th and showed well to an appreciative audience into May; four Tundra Bean Geese fed in fields adjacent to Wykeham Lakes the same day.

The spring proved to be good for passage Ring Ouzels, with the first noteworthy count of nine at Filey on 9th. Ottringham hosted a White Stork the next day and undoubtedly the same flew south over Spurn 24 hours later. Checking recently tilled land at Bewholme proved worthwhile on 11th with the discovery of a Stone Curlew, but unfortunately it soon moved on. Light south-easterly winds prompted the arrival of nine Ring Ouzels along the coast between Boulby and Hummersea on 12th, while Flamborough’s only spring Firecrest arrived in South Landing the following day.

A Spoonbill was a fresh arrival to Blacktoft on 18th, while seven Ring Ouzels was a good local count at Fylingdales the next day. The 21st was a good day to be along the coast: eleven Ring Ouzels were between Boulby and Hummersea, with another eight at Scaling Dam, a Hooded Crow flew over Boulby and Saltburn, while Red-rumped Swallows

flew north over Boulby and south over Flamborough. Parties of eleven Ring Ouzels were located at Stoupe Brow, Scarborough and Rombald’s Moor, Bradford on 22nd when a localised fall of 40 Willow Warblers took place at Ravenscar. Also on 22nd the cracking adult Red-necked Grebe returned to Hatfield Moors, while southbound birds through Spurn included a well-watched male Montagu’s Harrier and unsurprisingly, a Red-rumped Swallow. Less predicted, however, was Yorkshire’s first ever spring Olive-backed Pipit photographed in a Thorngumbald garden again on 22nd.

Two Spoonbills flew over Spurn on 23rd, with an additional individual dropping into Fairburn and Swillington. A fall of 100 Wheatears on Redcar GC on 25th wasn’t reflected elsewhere, with 171 Arctic Terns heading east over Spurn on the same date. Again proving to a good month for Nearctic ducks, a drake Ring-necked Duck showed well at Rother Valley CP from 29th, when two Cranes were near Hull, before relocating the next day to Wheldrake.

MAY

A Hooded Crow south at Spurn ushered in May, with another two days later at Wykeham Lakes, when there were eight Ring Ouzels at Spurn. A Common Rosefinch was relatively early at the same site on 4th, while upstream 39 Black Terns flew east past Paull Holme Strays and a Nightingale was a great find at Sunk Island. Reflecting a similar movement in the Netherlands, several localities in the east recorded good numbers of Barnacle Geese from 5th; 148 flew past Spurn, while the following day 113 went north-west at Sunk Island, 49 flew north at Flamborough and 40 tracked over Filey. Other notable records on 5th included: 14 Dotterel at Ingleborough, a Hooded Crow feeding on the beach at Redcar, four Black Redstarts at Spurn and a Shore Lark at Filey.

For those that didn’t fancy an Ingleborough ascent, three Dotterel proved popular at Whitley Common from 6th, while Bolton Ings pulled in a Spoonbill on 7th, with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Swillington the same day: on the coast the spring’s first Red-backed Shrike made landfall at Cattersty Gill. A Crane flew north over Spurn on 10th and was then tracked further north. A Purple Sandpiper was an unexpected find at Old Moor on 12th, while a Shore Lark was at Spurn on the same date. A male Grey-headed Wagtail paid a brief visit to Carr Naze Pond, Filey on 13th, Flamborough hosted a Common Rosefinch and Spurn logged an unseasonal Waxwing.

The light north-easterly airstream continued on 14th and prompted an impressive fall at Spurn, including: a Nightingale, six Turtle Doves, 12 Cuckoo,



Dotterel (Whitley Common) © Dave Pennington

37 Whinchat, 291 Wheatear, 12 Ring Ouzels, two Wood Warblers, 133 Willow Warblers, 23 Sedge Warblers, 17 Spotted and 12 Pied Flycatchers. Impressive as this was, the rarest bird along the coast was a Bee-eater that showed well on wires at East Newton. Strangely the Spurn fall wasn’t reflected further north, with Flamborough’s Wheatear tally peaking at a mere 42 on 15th. Two Spoonbills north over Hornsea Mere on the evening of 15th were noted heading in a similar direction over Filey the following day. Spurn chipped in with an ever-rarer Bluethroat on 16th, when the year’s first Roseate Tern went north there.

A Pectoral Sandpiper at Blacktoft on 18th constituted another rare spring record, while two days later typical May records included: a Spoonbill south through Spurn, a Temminck’s Stint at Tophill and five Little Egrets west over Blacktoft and then Thorne Moors. In keeping with the warm, spring-like conditions of 20th a Serin at Flamborough may have been typical in date, but not location; this remains a much sought after species away from Spurn, while a Crane also dropped in briefly at Swillington on the same day. The county was treated to another Bee-eater when one rested at Flamborough on 23rd, with undoubtedly the same flying north along the cliff-top at Filey early the next morning. The 23rd also witnessed the discovery of three Dotterel on Danby Beacon and a Temminck’s Stint at Sunk Island. A Nightjar in the Old Moor/Broomhill area on 25th was the first ever recorded there, while a Richard’s Pipit at Flamborough the same day was a late spring migrant.

Most attention was diverted to inland waters on 26th, following the discovery of a summer-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper at Skelton Lake. A Temminck's Stint dropped into North Cave on 27th during strong NNE winds and rain and the same conditions induced impressive spring movements of Manx Shearwaters, with 889 south past Filey in a mere five hours on 27th, followed by 810 north off Atwick and 1056 similarly flying past Flamborough the following day. The deep low anchored over the Low Countries continued to feed in northerlies on 28th resulting in the arrival of a male Rustic Bunting, Bluethroat and male Red-backed Shrike to Spurn, with an additional Red-backed Shrike making landfall at Flamborough and another Temminck's Stint appearing at Tophill. Two Red-backed Shrikes sheltered on Spurn the following day, with an Icterine Warbler at Flamborough new on 30th, when Blacktoft hosted a Red-necked Phalarope and two Spoonbills flew south at Spurn.

JUNE

Unusually Sunk Island trumped everywhere on the opening day when first a lone Bee-eater flew south-east, followed almost an hour later by two more. The Mediterranean theme continued the next day with a Spoonbill at Tophill and the ever present group of Little Egrets at Beacon Ponds increasing to ten. A Temminck's Stint arrived at Nosterfield on 3rd, while hugely impressive was the discovery of a Woodchat Shrike in Harehills, Leeds on 4th. However, perhaps the most significant arrival was the



Ferruginous Duck (Hornsea Mere) © Tony Dixon

breeding-plumaged Great White Egret that arrived at Tophill and entertained a steady stream of visitors over forthcoming days.

As high pressure continued to build, temperatures climbed and light onshore winds prompted the arrival of a singing Corncrake at Hummersea and an Icterine Warbler at Flamborough on 5th. A Bluethroat appeared at South Gare the next day, a Red-backed Shrike arrived at Bempton on 7th and finally, a Golden Oriole was new at Spurn on 9th.

With the seawatching season just around the corner, a prompt was given by the Balearic Shearwater at Flamborough on 10th. A female Red-footed Falcon at Spurn on 11th would have been popular had it stayed, but after alighting briefly, it disappeared off south. A summer-plumaged Black-throated Diver off Flamborough on 13th was unusual, while a Honey Buzzard at Spurn two days later was more seasonal; although the heavy hail shower that forced it to seek shelter was not! A Quail near the Canal at Spurn on 17th amazed many by showing well enough to be captured on film and a Golden Oriole at Rimsweil on the same day somehow avoided passing through Spurn. One of the year's highlights was also discovered on 17th when a Whiskered Tern dropped in at Pugneys; it soon moved on, but pleased many a 'local patch lister' by making subsequent pit stops at Winterset, Wombwell and Broomhill, before eventually heading off south-east.

A moderate south-west wind prompted a southerly movement of 4600 Swifts through Spurn on 20th, with a party of six Spoonbills also heading in a similar direction. A late Common Rosefinch was a surprise at Flamborough the next day, with a Black Redstart also present. The coast continued to prevail in the final week, with an adult Pomarine Skua off Cowbar on 26th the prelude to a moderate north-westerly the following day pushing five Storm Petrels close inshore at Filey Brigg.

JULY

Low pressure dominated throughout, bringing cool conditions and sustained periods of wet weather; summer seemed anything but! A near adult summer-plumaged Long-tailed Duck stayed at Hay-a-Park for seven days from 1st and seemed quite at home in the disappointing conditions. Two Corncrakes were discovered calling on 4th; in the north of the county, one called near Pinchinthorpe on evenings until 8th, while another did likewise at Grimston for several nights.

A cracking summer-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper graced Wykeham Lakes from 6th to 19th, although it frustratingly chose a private gravel pit

to evade most eyes. Birding then produced few highlights until 15th, when an early departure by a birder from Spurn was unusually rewarded; his car traveled past a Roller sat on roadside wires at Easington. Although elusive at times it stayed for two days and most eventually obtained good views.

The 17th produced a flurry of activity with an adult Pectoral Sandpiper at Broomhill, adult and first-summer Night Herons discovered at Fairburn and an adult Pacific Golden Plover at Spurn. Unfortunately the stay of the latter was confined to 15 minutes, while the herons remained in the general area until September! A low centred over Scandinavia on 19th resulted in a northerly airstream in the higher reaches of the North Sea and seawatch teams took note. A Red-necked Grebe off Flamborough on 19th was the forerunner to a good day there on 20th: Sooty and Balearic Shearwaters tracked north, as did an immature Long-tailed and three Pomarine Skuas. Another Pectoral Sandpiper appeared in the region on 20th with an adult at Cleasby staying until the following day. Common Scoters started to appear on inland waters as birds headed west to moult within the Irish Sea, with a best count of 50 passing Blacktoft on 21st. A tally of 250 Little Gulls at Tophill on 24th was a superb inland count, but the coast claimed bird of the week when a Great White Egret flew south over the sea off Spurn on 25th. A juvenile Red-necked Phalarope lingered on Lingham Lake on 28th and the wader theme continued with a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Patrington Haven the following day and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Thorganby Ings on 30th. Northerlies at the month end then focused attention back to the sea, and a group of ten Storm Petrels feeding off the north side of Filey Brigg on 31st was exceptional, although reflects a general increase in records over the last few years.

AUGUST

Gulls featured on 2nd with an summer-plumaged adult Sabine's Gull north at Flamborough heralding the start of a great autumn for the species; considerably less attractive to all but the most dedicated larophile, an adult Caspian Gull was discovered on the beach at Patrington Haven the same day and relocated to East Newton on 6th.

Two Spoonbills overflowed Spurn on 3rd, while further north Green Sandpipers continued to build at Tophill and peaked at 37 on 5th. The inland passage of Common Scoters continued in small numbers, although an impressive 38 dropped onto Green Withens Res near Halifax on 6th. Four Little Egrets were at Winterset on 8th, while on the coast 1300 Little Gulls were off Atwick and an adult Sabine's Gull tracked north at Filey. A Spoonbill

arrived at Old Moor and July's Buff-breasted Sandpiper relocated to Stone Creek on 9th; the next day witnessed a Red-necked Phalarope feeding on the sea off Flamborough and a Great White Egret arrived at Swillington Ings for a two-week stay. High pressure and light onshore winds were responsible for the arrival of autumn's first drift migrant, when a juvenile Red-backed Shrike was trapped at Filey on 11th and the same conditions brought a Wood Warbler to Spurn the following day.

Good numbers of gulls and terns were feeding off the Yorkshire coast mid-month; counts peaked on 13th with eight Roseate Terns at Filey Brigg, 3097 Little Gulls off Flamborough and the pre-roost tern movement at Spurn recorded 10,500 Common Terns, 104 Arctic Terns, 674 Sandwich Terns, seven Black Terns and two Roseates. Inland birders struck back with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Swillington on 14th, while Garganey were present throughout at Tophill and numbers peaked at 11 on 16th, when an adult Sabine's Gull flew south at Spurn. Flamborough recorded eight Roseate Terns on 18th, but the day's headlines were grabbed by a Wilson's Phalarope that relocated from Bishop Middleham, Durham to pools near Catterick racecourse.

A low pressure centred in the North Sea induced a northerly airflow on 19th and a single Sabine's Gull off Filey and two at Flamborough were immediate rewards. The following day a Slavonian Grebe pitched down on the sea off Spurn and single Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas headed south at Flamborough. However, scouring the bushes at the same site proved the best choice, when a Melodious Warbler was located on the Outer Head; staying for a week, it proved to the county's most twitchable ever. A Wryneck made landfall at Spurn on 21st, with a Nightjar at Flamborough the same day, while 'clickers' were employed to the full when 15,000 Little Gulls roosted on Hornsea Mere the same day. Attention remained focused on the Mere when a Ferruginous Duck was identified amongst the loafing *aythya* flock on 22nd; frustratingly, public viewing of its favoured area was difficult and, whilst giving good views to some, it could be stubbornly difficult to pin down for others.

High pressure edged into the UK in the final week and light winds from the east helped drift a handful of scarce migrants to the coast, starting with a Red-backed Shrike at Spurn on 24th; 45 Pink-footed Geese arrived at Sunk Island the same day and reminded that summer was ebbing away. Six Little Egrets flew north over Filey on 25th, while to the south there were 4335 Common Terns off Flamborough; inland, a Honey Buzzard flew west over Anglers and the first migrant Spotted Crake

appeared at Blacktoft. Hornsea Mere sheltered a Red-necked Grebe from 26th, while a Barred Warbler was discovered at Spurn the same day. A Wryneck drifted to Flamborough on 27th, while north-westerly winds on 28th pushed two Sabine's Gulls inshore off Filey, a Black Guillemot flew south at Spurn and single Red-backed Shrike and Barred Warbler were located on Flamborough. Little Egrets continued to perform well along the Humber and ten were at Paull Holme Strays on 28th. A Great Shearwater off Flamborough on 29th and another north at Long Nab the next day were a portent of what was to follow.

SEPTEMBER

Old Moor hosted a roost of 8000 Swallows on the opening day of the month, while Tophill chipped in with 62 Greenshank on 3rd. However, most attention focused on the sea, where a Great Shearwater flew north at Spurn, along with a Sabine's Gull and Long-tailed Skua. Another Long-tailed Skua tracked past Skinningrove on 4th, when 2422 Little Gulls assembled off Flamborough. The year's only Cory's Shearwater flew north close inshore at Flamborough on 5th, an impressive 1344 Bar-tailed Godwits were logged at Spurn and Little Egrets increased to 11 at Old Moor.

A keen-eyed birder put his Asian birding experience to the test on 8th when he tracked down the county's second ever Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Sammy's Point after initial flight views; unfortunately, only those proximate to the site were lucky and the bird was pushed off by the rising tide and not relocated. High pressure established to the west of the UK in the second week and introduced light northerlies along the North Sea coast. Subsequently, a Great Shearwater tracked north off Atwick on 9th, with three more of the same likewise at Flamborough; further south, a Leach's Petrel was over the Humber at Spurn. Ten Great Shearwaters seemed like a once in a generation tally passing north at Flamborough on 10th; elsewhere, Long Nab logged a single, with another two at Spurn. Nine Long-tailed Skuas and four Storm Petrels at Spurn increased impressions that this was a great seawatching year. The previous day's tally of Great Shearwaters was blown out of the water on 11th, when an amazing 33 re-orientated back north off Flamborough; other seawatching highlights included three Greats north at Long Nab, 587 Sooty Shearwaters north at Flamborough, two Sabine's Gulls south at Atwick and another two Great Shearwaters north at Spurn, together with a Sabine's Gull, two Long-tailed Skuas and a Grey Phalarope north. For those tired of staring at waves, a Barred Warbler at Spurn provided respite and

inland two Spoonbills flew over Old Moor.

Things quietened dramatically on 12th with a best of two Sabine's Gulls off Spurn. Pink-footed Geese appeared in numbers unusually early, with 2264 south at Flamborough on 15th; however, it was one of the smaller skeins that attracted most attention, containing within it a white-phase Snow Goose that added itself to local patch lists at Filey, Flamborough and then Spurn en route to Norfolk. Other highlights of 15th almost inevitably included two Great Shearwaters off both Flamborough and Spurn. Hornsea Mere hosted two Slavonian Grebes from 16th, but attention reverted back to the sea the following day with a Sabine's Gull south off Cowbar, two more at Spurn and a Grey Phalarope south at Flamborough. A Common Rosefinch made landfall at Spurn on 18th, but otherwise scarce drift migrants generally attained a status more befitting a vagrant! Two Leach's Petrels off Spurn and Long Nab on 18th were new, although a single Great Shearwater at Flamborough seemed 'old hat'.

From the west a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper graced Tophill from 19th and conditions were clearly favourable when it was joined by a second the following day. Of greater local importance, another Pectoral Sandpiper appeared on a flash at Flamborough on 20th, while a Wryneck at Scalby Lodge and a Bluethroat at Spurn almost represented a 'fall' in the context of this September. A West Yorkshire ringing team were surprised with a Cetti's Warbler in the net at Winterset on 22nd, while a Leach's Petrel tracked south at Flamborough the same day. A Pectoral Sandpiper was new at Nosterfield on 23rd, but the final week belonged to the seawatch teams. Initially a low pressure in the northern half of the North Sea induced a north-westerly airflow from 26th and as the influence of a high pressure to the west of the UK increased, so the winds switched to due north. Two juvenile Long-tailed Skuas off Filey on the evening of 25th were the prelude to Grey Phalaropes off South Gare, Filey, and Spurn, another Long-tailed Skua off Filey and six Storm Petrels north at Spurn the following day. Additionally on 26th, a Grey Phalarope escaped the vagaries of the North Sea for the more tranquil waters of Tophill Low.

By 27th the high pressure started to nudge into Scandinavia and for the first time during the month, a corridor for drift migrants opened; immediately Spurn was rewarded with single Yellow-browed and Greenish Warblers. Inland a Crane soared over High Hoyland, while on the coast Flamborough's first ever Buff-breasted Sandpiper took a liking to the coastal links. However, it was the sea that produced the highlights: two Sabine's Gulls tracked north off Ulrome, Grey Phalaropes were off Filey,

Jackson's Bay and two off Flamborough. Five Long-tailed Skuas headed north at Long Nab, with three at Filey and two at Flamborough. Three Sabine's Gulls and a trio of Great Shearwaters also headed north at Flamborough, but perhaps one of the most unusual events initiated along the Humber, with an influx of juvenile Gannets into the upper reaches of the estuary; 135 were off Brough Haven alone and many were subsequently displaced well inland. A juvenile Sabine's Gull feeding on fields at Little Hunsley Farm also on 27th had presumably similarly headed west along the Humber and continuing an impressive run of records, another Buff-breasted Sandpiper fed in fields at Blacktoft.

While the usual suspects continued to provide interest along the coast on 28th, passerines included two Yellow-browed Warblers, a Great Grey Shrike and Little Bunting at Spurn and another Yellow-browed arrived at Flamborough. The following day's star find related to a first-year Isabelline Shrike at Buckton and nearby a Red-breasted Flycatcher refueled in trees adjacent to Speeton church. Just to the north, a Great Grey Shrike hunted hedgerows at Filey on 29th, where there were two Yellow-browed Warblers; four also made landfall at Flamborough and Hummersea hosted the first of a mini-arrival of Siberian Stonechats. The tally of migrants at Spurn included a Wryneck, Great Grey Shrike, three Yellow-broweds and 23 Stonechats. The 29th also witnessed five Grey Phalaropes off Flamborough that signaled the end to a fantastic spell of seawatching; inland, a juvenile Sabine's Gull north over Winterset was a surprise. September closed with two Yellow-browed Warblers in Locke Park, another at Ravenscar and a Siberian Stonechat at Barmston.

OCTOBER

The month opened with good numbers of Little Stints at several locations and included 36 at Tophill, while along the coast Yellow-browed Warblers appeared at Skelton Castle and Spurn. A light south-easterly continued on 2nd and Spurn focused attention with a Red-necked Phalarope, Siberian Stonechat and Red-breasted Flycatcher.

The SSE strengthened slightly the following day and a heavy overcast induced a significant arrival of Yellow-broweds with two at Filey, six at Flamborough and Spurn chipped in with eleven. On the same day a Grey Phalarope off Filey Brigg typically stayed for several days and gave great views, while 31 Stonechats at Spurn was an impressive tally. However, one of the year's star birds lurked in Old Fall, Flamborough on 3rd, with the identification of the Brown Flycatcher causing a mad dash to the headland during the afternoon;



Bluethroat (Spurn) © Mike Ashforth

thankfully it remained all the next day and helped raise significant funds for a local charity. A Red-backed Shrike graced Flamborough on 4th while new Yellow-broweds were at Brotton, Scarborough Castle, Buckton and Filey. High pressure built during the first week and the light easterly airflow encouraged further arrivals from the east, with nine Yellow-broweds at Flamborough on 5th and two each at Filey and Scarborough. A Bean Goose headed south at Flamborough on the same day, when a confiding Barred Warbler appeared at the same site.

Yellow-broweds continued to dominate on 6th, with a best of nine at Spurn, although variation was provided by the simultaneous arrival of Blyth's Reed Warblers at Flamborough and Spurn; the former in particular showed well to a steady stream of visitors over subsequent days. Further coastal discoveries on 6th included in the north, a Richard's Pipit at Upton and a juvenile Dotterel with Golden Plover at Boulby, while heading south a Bluethroat sought shelter at Filey, another Richard's Pipit appeared at Grimston and a Shore Lark pitched down at Spurn. Single Barred Warbler and Common Rosefinch at Spurn were new on 7th, while next day another Barred was at Hummersea, but a Dusky Warbler at Easington was the best find. The high pressure gradually declined over Scandinavia and the flow of new arrivals slowed, although two Little Buntings and another Rosefinch were discovered at Spurn on 10th. Inland birders finally prospered on 11th with a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper at Swinemoor,

while Paull Holme Strays hosted an impressive flock of 655 Black-tailed Godwits and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 12th; a Red-throated Pipit played hide-and-seek at Flamborough on the same day, while Spurn logged an amazing 1,120 Tree Sparrows south and a Common Rosefinch. A small ridge of high pressure edged into Norway and induced an arrival of thrushes on 13th with 3030 Redwing, 450 Blackbird and 550 Fieldfare at Spurn, a Yellow-browed appeared at South Gare and nearby a Firecrest was discovered at Brotton. However, bucking the eastern trend, the best find was a juvenile American Golden Plover at Long Bank, Easington which remained in the area to the month end. Immigrants on 14th included Richard's Pipits at Spurn and Filey and a Great Grey Shrike at Folkton Carr. Scalby Lodge Pond attracted a Shore Lark the next day, while a Bittern at Spurn constituted a good local patch tick. A Richard's Pipit at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough stayed for two days from 17th while new arrivals from the east the next day included: a Barred Warbler at Flamborough, another Barred at Scalby Lodge, which proved to be Scarborough's first twitchable individual in recent years and single Yellow-browed Warbler and Hawfinch at Spurn. Undoubtedly too high for detection along the coast, 1430 Fieldfare flew west over Upper Midhope also on 18th.

Nosterfield's burgeoning reputation was further enhanced when it attracted a Pectoral Sandpiper on 19th, but attention was inevitably then diverted back to the coast the following day as a high pressure centred on the UK started to exert influence into Scandinavia. An Ortolan at Spurn and Richard's Pipit at Filey played second fiddle to Barred and Pallas's Warblers at Flamborough and, best of all, the Red-flanked Bluetail that pitched up in a ringer's net on the Outer Head. Incredibly, Thorngumbald then hit the headlines with another Siberian gem on 21st, although unfortunately the White's Thrush had already succumbed in a collision with a window. Other notable records included 1500 Pink-feet south over Welton Waters, a Rough-legged Buzzard that was photographed in off at Filey and good numbers of coastal Stonechat were reflected with 15 at Buckton.

With high pressure dominating northern Europe small numbers of scarce migrants continued to appear on the Yorkshire coast; a Richard's Pipit at Brotton, a Rough-legged Buzzard heading inland over Saltburn and a Yellow-browed Warbler at Scarborough were new on 22nd, another Rough-legged Buzzard overflowed Patrington and a Short-toed Lark fed in cliff top plough at Saltwick Nab on 23rd when a Grey Phalarope took up

residence close inshore off Filey Brigg. New arrivals at Spurn on 24th included two Yellow-broweds and 29 Woodcock, while the same location hosted Dusky, Pallas's and Yellow-browed Warblers the next day. Away from the coast, a Yellow-browed Warbler at Tophill was a cracking local record on 25th. Eastern drift prevailed the following day, with a Yellow-browed new in at Filey, Pallas's Warbler and Richard's Pipit at Flamborough and a Hooded Crow and a flighty Red-throated Pipit at Spurn. A Shore Lark appeared on Spurn on 27th in what was a very disappointing autumn for the species, while further north Pallas's Warblers appeared at both Filey and Flamborough and inland, Nosterfield attracted its second Pectoral Sandpiper of the month. The month ended with westerlies once again dominating and things quietened considerably, although a Black Guillemot at Filey and a Yellow-browed at Flamborough livening up proceedings on 30th; a flock of 58 Mandarins at Strid Woods the same day indicated how well the population is doing.

NOVEMBER

A week ridge of high pressure ensured a relatively calm start to the month; four Bean Geese flew south at Flamborough on 2nd and 1550 Blackbird, 1000 Fieldfare and 500 Redwing arrived at Spurn the same day. A late Yellow-browed Warbler was on Spurn on 3rd, ten Velvet Scoters were off South Gare and a Grey Phalarope made the first of several appearances off Flamborough. However, a sudden increase in the strength of the north-westerly winds produced Pomarine Skuas along the coast. In what was the largest such movement in several years, 47 tracked south at Filey, 75 headed south at Flamborough and 108 flew through Spurn all on 3rd. As the high expanded overnight, so a corridor from Scandinavia opened and a photogenic Little Bunting showed well on Beacon Lane, Spurn, a Bluethroat was nearby at Wire Dump, while further north a Rough-legged Buzzard came in off at Scalby Lodge. Two Firecrests at Old Moor were also discovered on 4th and remained in the area until late December. A Great White Egret was unexpected the following day, when one flew north-west over Spurn, while strong northerlies prompted another movement of Pomarine Skuas on 6th; 46 flew past Flamborough with 43 logged at Spurn, where a southbound female Surf Scoter was an additional bonus.

In keeping with the sudden drop in temperature, a single Shore Lark came in off at Flamborough on 7th. A very deep depression centred over Norway on 9th produced strong northerlies and induced a spectacular late autumn movement along the Yorkshire coast with highlights: a Grey Phalarope and 883 Little Auks north at Scarborough; a Leach's

Petrel and 2964 Little Auks north at Flamborough; another Grey Phalarope tracked north at Spurn, where a Storm Petrel flew south. Large divers were clearly being forced further south than usual and ten Great Northern's flew past both Flamborough then Filey on 10th, to be followed at the former location by a close White-billed; unfortunately, the Filey seawatch team had left to warm up after the last Great Northern! A Black Guillemot re-orientated north at Filey, while Spurn chipped in with four Great Northern's, a Leach's Petrel and 533 Little Auks; in addition, 13 more of the latter were upriver by the Humber Bridge on 10th. The movement continued on 11th with two Storm Petrels off Spurn, four Great Northern's and 618 Little Auks flying past Atwick, a Glaucous Gull north at Ulrome, five Great Northern's at Filey and 1100 Little Auks north at South Gare. Eight Short-eared Owls in off was a creditable count at Spurn, while inland birders discovered a juvenile Purple Sandpiper at Old Moor and a Little Auk at Ottringham.

Five Great Northern Divers flew north at Long Nab on 12th with a Grey Phalarope at South Gare the same day, while passerine immigration was reflected by a flock of 52 Snow Buntings at Ulrome. Several more Little Auks were displaced inland, with singles at North Cave and Blackmoorfoot Res on 12th and another followed on Huxter Marsh, Potteric the next day; the latter no doubt appreciating the expansion of the reserve. A Black Guillemot flew past Flamborough on 14th, when a Pallas's Warbler was also discovered at Spurn. Although a disappointing autumn for coastal Firecrests one was located at Haw Park, near Winterset on 15th and remained in the area until the start of December. The northerly winds had obviously displaced many seabird species, further illustrated when seven Black-throated Divers tracked past Flamborough on 16th. The same site then hosted a Shore Lark on cliff top stubbles on 17th, while a Grey Phalarope off Filey the next day was another typical seasonal visitor.

Light easterlies mid-month heralded the arrival of the last scarce passerines; a Richard's Pipit at Spurn on 19th acted as a forerunner to a Pallas's Warbler at Ringborough the next day and another Richard's Pipit at Flamborough on 21st, when there was also a Shore Lark at Spurn. A second late Pallas's Warbler, this time at Filey, drew a crowd from 22nd, with a Leach's Petrel heading north past the Brigg on 23rd; further south, two Greenland White-fronted Geese made in rare visit to the county, when they pitched down at North Cave. A Black-bellied Dipper took up winter residence at Watton from 24th, although its sub-specific identity wasn't clarified until well into 2008. A

Great Grey Shrike appeared in Langdale Forest near Scarborough on 25th, while Spurn added yet another species to its impressive list, when a Cattle Egret paid a brief visit on the same date. However, a superb Desert Wheatear stole the headlines on 26th following its discovery on the cliff top at Cromer Point, north of Scarborough. Staying into the New Year, it provided a great excuse for a visit to the coast in December, rather than a trip to the shops! Those quickest of the mark also appreciated the Firecrest that was present nearby at Crook Ness from 27th, while further south 40 Snow Buntings enlivened fields at Barmston. The month closed with an impressive count of 38 Mandarins on Hackness Lake.

DECEMBER

A Black-throated Diver took up three-week residence on Wykeham Lakes from the opening day, when five White-fronted Geese flew up the Humber at Spurn. Another diver that sought inland refuge was a juvenile Great Northern at Tophill from 2nd; it subsequently stayed for four weeks. Seemingly rarer year on year, a Red-necked Grebe was located on the sea off the seawatch hide at Spurn on 3rd, although it wasn't seen thereafter. Long Nab attracted a flock of 45 Snow Buntings on 4th and the northern coast of Scarborough continued to focus birder interest, due to the continued residence of the Desert Wheatear and wintering Water Pipit at Cromer Point.

Two Bitterns were noted at Old Moor on 8th and one remained throughout December, while two Great Northern Divers flew past Spurn the following day. Passerine interest manifested itself in the form of a flock of 90 Snow Buntings at South Gare on 11th, while a search of Flax Dale in the Dalby Forest produced impressive flocks of 700 Brambling and 100 Crossbill on 14th. A drake Smew was an unusual visitor to Coatham Marsh on 15th, while next day a Black Guillemot flew south at Filey and 'wheatear-twitchers' located a Slavonian Grebe on the sea off Burniston. A Pomarine Skua tracked north at Spurn on 19th, with a single Lapland Bunting an unusual visitor to the Knavesmire in York the following day; a drake Long-tailed Duck on Broomhead Res was a nice present on 25th. A Little Egret south over Filey Brigg was a surprise on 27th and next day a Firecrest was discovered at Tophill and subsequently lingered into the New Year. In the north of the county a Water Pipit fed on the shoreline of Scaling Dam on 29th and nearby a Black Redstart enlivened proceedings at Skinningrove. The last notable record was a Sooty Shearwater north past Spurn on 30th.

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Systematic List Explained



YNU's Adjudication Panel or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) has accepted all rare and unusual species that require a description in this Report. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *The British List* (seventh edition, 2007), incorporating the recommendations of the BOU Records Committee 36th Report (*Ibis* 2008: 150, 218-220). The sequence for shanks and gulls has altered, some scientific names have changed, and in particular, Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* has been elevated to full species status. Vernacular as well as international names are now included in *The British List* and these are generally used in this Report.

- A** Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.
- B** Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently, (not in this report).
- C** Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.
 - C1** *Naturalised introduced species* – species that have occurred only because of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (must breed or be proven wanderers to the county)
 - C2** *Naturalised established species* – species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
 - C3** *Naturalised re-established species* – species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
 - C4** *Naturalised feral species* – domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove) / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.
 - C5** *Vagrant naturalised species* – species from established naturalized populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.
 - C6** *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*. There are no Yorkshire species in this category.
- D** Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D only form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals. (See separate section in this Report).

- E** Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List (unless already included within Categories A, B or C). (See separate section in this Report).

The British List comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C.

The Yorkshire List comprises species in categories A, B and C, but the rules for including Category C species must be applicable to Yorkshire.

Abbreviations used in the Report

AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CP	Country Park
CSL	Central Science Laboratories
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
RBBP	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
Res	Reservoir(s)
SF/SW	Sewage Farm/Sewage Works
YDUBSA	Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Area

Species Totals

Species totals in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last five years, including the current year (2007 shown last).

Previous Records

Previous records in the status line, refer to the number of accepted records, excluding the current year. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of BBRC, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year, but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. In a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and some waders).



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Species Status

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire.

Vagrant

Up to 10 records in total since records began

Rare

0-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years

Scarce

11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years

Uncommon

101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years

Fairly common

More than 1000 records per year

Common

More than 10000 records per year

Abundant

More than 50000 records per year

Conservation Status

Status on the list of birds of conservation concern 2002-2007 from the RSPB's review **The Population Status of Birds in the UK** is noted.

Red list = high conservation concern: declining UK population or globally threatened

Amber list = medium conservation concern.

UK BAP Species

In 1995, 26 bird species were identified as being deserving of the highest priority within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), because of either threat on a global scale or population declines of 50% or more in the UK in the preceding 25 years. All but one are UK breeding species, the exception being Aquatic Warbler. In 2006, a new UK BAP priority species list was published, operating at the subspecies level. The current UK BAP species are labelled in the Systematic List.

Breeding Bird Survey Figures

In 2007, 222 widely distributed 1 x 1 km squares were surveyed in Yorkshire and Humberside for the British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Bird Survey, an increase of 31 from 2006 and representing a tremendous effort by the region's field observers. Of these, 115 were in North Yorkshire, 34 in South Yorkshire, 35 in West Yorkshire and 40 in East Yorkshire/Humberside, although the latter area includes some North Lincolnshire squares. Cleveland squares have not been included.

The total number of 1 km squares, out of the 222 surveyed in the region, in which the species was recorded at least once in 2007, is noted on the status line in order to give some indication of distribution. The population changes for those species with sufficient records to qualify for meaningful analysis of the BBS data are stated for 1994-2007 and 2006-2007, (with comparable figures for the UK in brackets in each case).

For example:

MALLARD

BBS 115/222: +8% (+27) 1994-2007, -30% (+6) 2006-07
Found in 115 of the 222 surveyed squares. There has been an 8% increase in population levels counted in the Yorkshire & Humberside squares between 1994-2007 compared to 27% increase in the UK, but a 30% decrease from 2006 to 2007 in the region compared to a 6% increase nationally. Short-term changes are not always statistically significant from relatively small numbers of surveys based on two visits, and some species can also be under-recorded on early morning breeding bird surveys. Spring 2007 was particularly wet.

The totals of the maximum counts recorded in each of the 222 squares provide a useful indication of relative abundance, with the caveat of differences in detectability. In 2007, the results in rank order for the top 15 are:

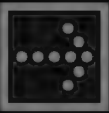
1.	Woodpigeon	3837
2.	Starling	2917
3.	Rook	2712
4.	Blackbird	2264
5.	Chaffinch	1846
6.	Carriion Crow	1724
7.	Meadow Pipit	1608
8.	House Sparrow	1587
9.	Jackdaw	1465
10.	Wren	1327
11.	Skylark	1306
12.	Swallow	1285
13.	Lapwing	1094
14.	Blue Tit	1038
15.	Feral Pigeon	878

WeBS Status

Data has been supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage). Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated, and is sometimes combined with counts from other sources. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the **British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU** (webs@bto.org). Where no birds were counted, a zero is entered, and a dash if no count is available.

WeBS Threshold figures

International and GB threshold figures given represent 1% of the relevant total population. The Ramsar Convention has established that a wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterbird.



MUTE SWAN *Cygnetsnus olor* AC2
Uncommon resident breeder and winter visitor in all VCs. BBS 12/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 320: GB threshold 375

The breeding population nationally has been increasing since the 1980s and is reflected in wintering numbers. The regional population appears to be stable or increasing slightly. Local movements for moulting occur, but are poorly understood.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	39	26	29	17	9	8	12	7	18	27	38	32
Castle Howard	9	11	7	16	24	19	10	12	18	32	24	33
Fairburn Ings	119	140	137	202	136	20	140	70	–	40	70	337
Hay-a-Park GP	13	11	16	8	14	28	29	33	39	45	51	40
Hornsea Mere	38	49	42	86	118	216	195	288	290	118	17	–
Lower Derwent NNR	89	81	60	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	52	–
North Humber	89	134	122	154	195	65	28	15	32	13	7	16
Nosterfield NR	2	2	–	4	7	4	3	1	13	13	8	–
Old Moor	43	45	60	40	27	120	57	56	71	42	130	25
Pugneys CP	23	35	33	44	33	30	24	27	28	20	13	21
Pulfin & High Eske	39	45	52	26	9	9	4	12	8	16	11	21
Ripon Race Course	44	65	43	47	24	–	11	11	–	–	–	–
R. Tees, Stockton	27	37	36	41	44	37	29	34	19	21	16	18
Rotherham Cut	69	–	35	38	33	–	–	–	–	–	37	–
South Tees	17	6	7	4	5	17	13	17	19	16	12	13
St. Aidans Lake	16	45	65	45	34	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Swillington Ings	12	2	2	–	2	–	–	–	5	7	5	16
Thrybergh Banks	16	18	13	11	7	6	16	5	10	32	8	8
Tophill Low	27	8	6	76	40	44	46	40	119	148	95	99
Welton Waters	–	–	20	–	35	83	40	–	–	–	–	2
Winterset Res	14	17	11	22	6	18	13	13	19	28	31	20

Small numbers reported from many favoured waters throughout the county; some of the larger counts included 50 at Leventhorpe Hall in January/February, 20 at Doncaster Lakeside in March, with 25 here through April and May. In April, there were eight at Bolton-on-Swale, 30 at Welton Waters, 15 at both North Duffield Ings and at Wheldrake Ings. Maximum counts from elsewhere included, 12 at Cononley Ings in January, 20 on the river Wharfe at Otley in February, 24 at Hunters Well in May, ten at Lingham Water in July, ten at North Cave, nine at Wykeham Lakes and seven at Skipton SW in September. In December, there were 28 at Potteric Carr, 19 at Lowther Lake and 42 on the Great Lake at Castle Howard. Smaller numbers (up to 14) were also present on the river Ouse in York during the year, having been released onto the river from a local swan rescue centre.

Nesting reported from 47 localities, involving a minimum of 64 breeding pairs, with an average brood size of 4.1 cygnets per pair. Nesting pairs were reported from: Azerley Lake (seven cygnets), Bellflask Quarry (two pairs), Blacktoft, Bradley (three cygnets), Broomhill Flash, Spurn (six cygnets), Crossflats, Dead Eye (six cygnets), Doncaster Lakeside (failed), Fairburn Ings (11 pairs bred), Farnham GP (five cygnets), Ferry Moor Pond (six cygnets), Flasks Lake (five cygnets), Flaxby GC (three cygnets), Hay-a-Park (six cygnets), Jervaulx Abbey (seven cygnets), Kirkby Malzeard (six cygnets), Lightwater Valley (seven cygnets), Marfield NR (failed), Milkin Hill (five cygnets), North Cave (two cygnets), Otley Wetlands (five cygnets), Pocklington Canal (three pairs), Hunter Well, Potteric (six cygnets), Piper Marsh, Potteric (five cygnets), Decoy Marsh, Potteric (seven cygnets), Rudston Carr (seven cygnets), Rodley NR (eight cygnets), Saltmarshe Delph (nine cygnets), Scampston Park (five cygnets), Shipley, Staveley NR (seven cygnets), Stockbridge NR, Studley Park (three cygnets all drowned in flood waters), Thorpe Underwood, Thrybergh CP (two cygnets), Winterset Res (six pairs hatched 19 cygnets).

BEWICK'S (TUNDRA) SWAN *Cygnetsnus columbianus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce migrant and winter visitor in declining numbers.
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 200: GB threshold 81
The Eurasian race *bewickii* breeds in the tundra of the Russian high Arctic and winters in the Netherlands and at just a few favoured sites in Britain. It is recently becoming increasingly scarce in the county; potentially due to increasing numbers remaining in continental Europe due to milder winters, coupled with British winterers concentrating at feeding reserves elsewhere. Nationally numbers were down 45% in the first winter period.
The only reports early on referred to an adult with the Whooper Swan herd at North Duffield during January and February, at least four adjacent to Hatfield Moors near Wroot on 20th January at least and four adults at Anglers CP on the evening of 15th March.
In October the first of the autumn were singles at Potteric Carr and Wombwell Ings on 23rd, while a party of ten were observed heading south past Flamborough on 27th. There were no further reports until 3rd November when six were near Hatfield Moors; three remained here on 25th November, with two present up to 9th December at least. On 6th November three (including an adult) flew south across the North Bay at Scarborough. On the same date what was probably the same party were then noted heading south over the Top Fields at Filey. The final record was a group of 20 over Anlaby (Hull) on 5th December.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnetsnus cygnetsnus* **A E**
Amber list: uncommon migrant in increasing numbers and winter visitor Oct – April
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 210: GB threshold 57
Breeds from Iceland east across northern Eurasia, with Britain's wintering population of mostly Icelandic origin, but some Fennoscandian birds have been recorded in eastern England. A small herd winters in the Lower Derwent valley, but over 3750 or half the British population now winter on the Ouse Washes and some of these migrate through the county, which contributes to the increasing numbers being reported.

Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Duffield Carrs	104	98	50	1	–	–	–	–	–	39	48	–
Old Moor	7	5	6	14	–	–	–	–	–	4	11	10

Not surprisingly, the largest wintering herd in the county was at North Duffield Carrs, though wandering birds from this herd also noted at several other sites within the Lower Derwent Valley. During the first half of the year, counts at all three regular wintering sites listed in the table were higher than those in 2006.
Elsewhere in January, there were 32 at Edderthorpe on 2nd and small herds and family parties were reported from many other locations, such as five at Goldthorpe on 3rd, five at Fly Flats and Wardley Moor Res on 5th, two at Anglers CP on 6th, when there were also three at Pulfin Bog, which increased to eight birds by 14th. There was evidence of some passage towards the end of the month. Starting with 62 heading west over Bradshaw on 25th, and on the following day there were 18 on Cold Edge Dams, 14 on Lower Gorple, 16 headed west over Redbrick, while 14 were at Walshaw Dean Res.
Some of the higher counts in February included 30 at Edderthorpe on 16th, 25 were in fields south of Finningley on 17th and 33 were at Wroot on 29th. March saw a definite upturn in records as birds began to move back north: on 8th there were 33 at Southfield Res and 30 at Anglers CP; 16 at Paull Home Strays on 9th; 16 north-west over Spurn on 11th; 50 over New Earswick (York) on 12th; 15 at John O'Gaunts Res on 13th; 29 at North Cave on 16th; 29 over Skinningrove the following day; 32 on Brough Airfield Marsh on 18th; 22 over Farnham GP on 20th; 120 flew over Thorne Moors on 25th and on the same date what was probably the same group were also seen heading over Rother Valley CP. There were 90 over Swillington Ings on 25th, when there were 22 on Winterset Res and 18 over Ecclesall (Sheffield). On the 26th there were 74 at Lower Barden Res, 47 at Swillington Ings, 45 north over Bishop Monkton, 29 over Bellflask Quarry, 16 on Elland GP and 16 on Hebden Water. On 27th 15 were on Ogden Water, 32 flew north over Shaw Cross (Dewsbury) on 30th and 31 were at Nosterfield on 31st.
Numbers tailed off in April, the highest count was 32 over Bellflask Quarry on 7th. The final records for the spring were six at Southfield Res on 8th, 14 at Old Moor on 14th, single birds were at Fairburn Ings until 15th and North Duffield Carrs until 19th. In May late birds were at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd and at Pulfin Bog on 22nd.
The first birds of the autumn were a group 24 at Todmorden on 24th September, followed by a single on

Gouthwaite Res on 29th. Coastal passage was first observed on 30th when six flew south past Flamborough Head. During the first week of October small numbers (1–3) were present at Southfield Res and Winterset Res on 2nd and at Bramhope on 3rd. Five were at Otley Wetland and two were on Winterset Res on 9th, followed by one strangely heading north past Spurn and three at Staveley on 10th. One was at Wykeham Lakes on 11th, three headed south past Long Nab on 12th, when ten were at Southfield Res. Four flew south past Filey and then Flamborough on 14th, when there were two at Old Moor. Numbers began to increase from 18th October when six flew past Flamborough, 12 were at Gunnerside and at Malham Tarn, two were at both Ringstone Edge Res and at Nosterfield; in addition ten were the first to arrive back at North Duffield Carrs. Some of the larger counts in the second half of October included seven at Thornton Moor Res on 19th, 11 were at Silverwood Pit on 20th, 11 at Southfield Res on 25th, and on 27th 14 were at Bowesfield Marsh, ten were in the North Bay at Scarborough and ten flew past Filey. Coastal passage increased from 28th when there were 14 at Filey, 50 flew past Flamborough and 28 flew past Bempton. On 29th 64 flew past Spurn and two were at Rodley NR. On 30th, there were 26 at Beal Carrs, seven at Swillington Ings, three at Wykeham Lakes, six at Bellflask, four at Worsbrough CP and 39 North Duffield Carrs.
Passage continued through November, when nine were at Scaling Dam on 1st, 11 at Old Moor on 3rd, 23 flew south over Blois Hall on 4th, with seven at North Cave the same day and 16 flew past Spurn on 5th. November's maximum consisted of 14 at Otley Wetland on 9th and the last passage birds were nine heading south over Miniskip on 13th.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* **A** 54,52,21,19,42
Amber list: scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant
Several subspecies breed across the northern Palearctic, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters.

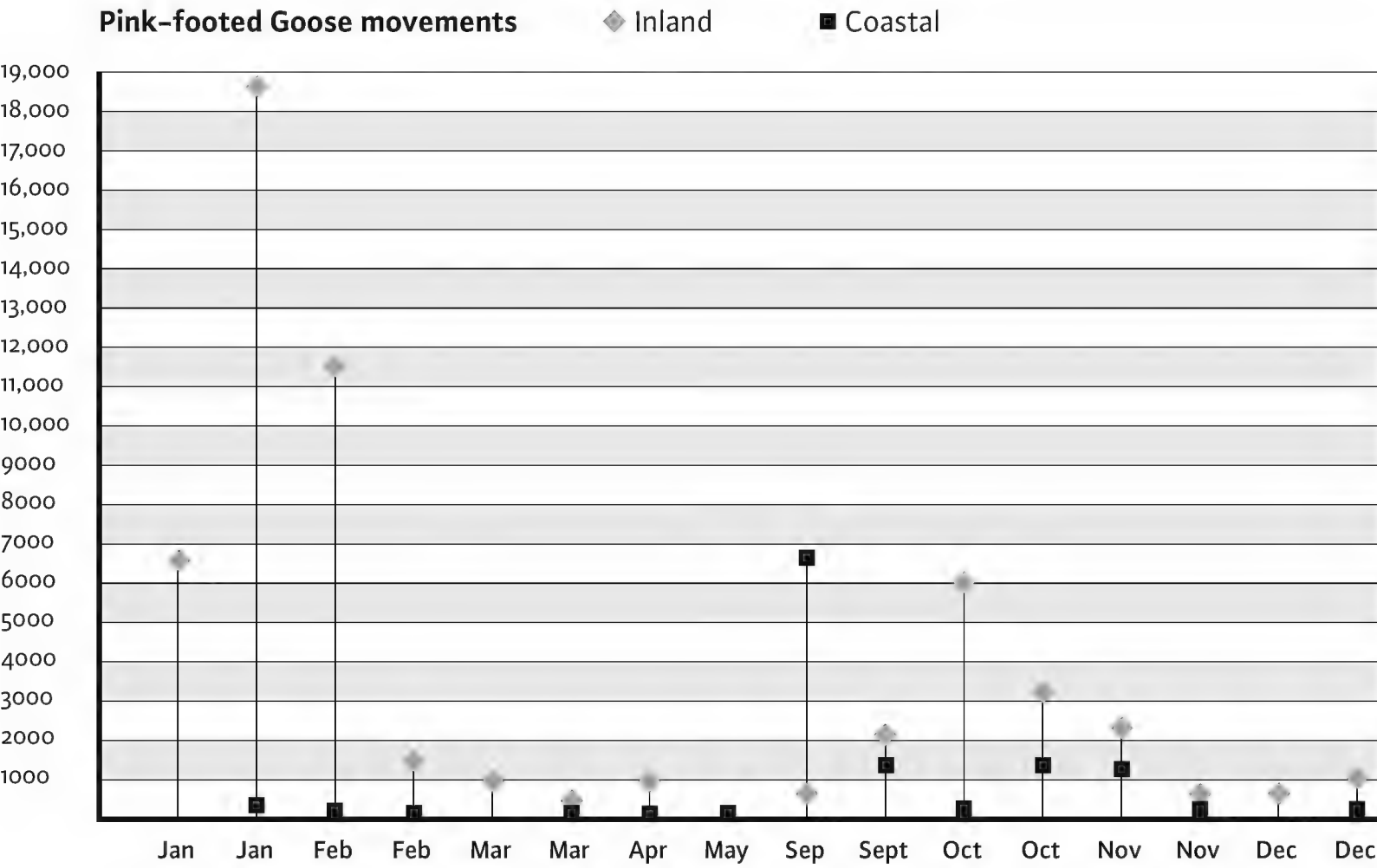
Bean Goose sp. Anser fabalis sp.
The following records were not attributed to a specific race: Three accompanied Greylags at Beal Carrs on 31st January (JW), while in spring eight flew inland over Scalby Lodge on 4th April (MF). In the second period, singles headed south over Flamborough on 5th October (PC) and Spurn on 28th October (DH); it is likely this latter individual was responsible for the sighting of an individual south off Atwick on the same day (EJH). On 2nd November, four circled over Old Fall Plantation, Flamborough before they turned south (IM).

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* **A**
In January 17 were at West Carlton on New Year's Day (AFJ *et al.*) and four were with Pink-footed Geese at Fairburn Ings on 20th (JGI *et al.*) The only other report related to four feeding in fields near Wykeham Lakes over 8th/9th April (NWA: SW).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor Sept – March
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 2400
This species breeds in east Greenland and central Iceland and winters in Britain, and a population also breeds in Svalbard, mostly wintering in the Low Countries. Wintering numbers have been increasing in Britain for the past 25 years, and more passage birds over fly Yorkshire on migration to wintering grounds in south Lincolnshire and Norfolk. However, numbers in the first winter period were 25% down nationally, which was reflected on the Humber, where only around 3800 were recorded (*cf* 5600 in 04/05).
Some of early January's larger formations included 150 over Cononley on 4th and 185 over Beal Carrs on the same date. On 7th there were: 216 over Broomhead Res; 80 over Farnham GP; 160 over Dore Moor; 130 over Skipton SW and 100 over Sothall. The first large movement out of Norfolk occurred between the 13th and 16th January, with around 7000 birds moving to the NW over this four-day period. Some of the larger skeins recorded included: on the 13th, 310 over Broomhill Flash, 140 over Shipley, 250 over Potteric Carr and 220 over Wilthorpe. On the 14th 400 tracked over Potteric Car, 641 over Cononley, 150 over Ogden Res, 160 over Walshaw, 200 over Winterset Res, 305 over Cullingworth, 800 over Queensbury (Bradford), with 800 over Thorganby the next day. The largest skein consisted of 1000 over Skipton on 16th.
The second large movement happened between the 30th January and 4th February, when around 29,513 birds were recorded heading N or NW. The larger formations included 500 over Wisewood, 3000 over Aston, 8000 over Ulley CP and 15,000 over North Anston all on 30th. This was followed by 700 over Armthorpe, 500 over Beal Carrs, 600 over Bradford, 1120 over Broomhill Flash, 500 over Denby Dale, 520 over Old Moor, 590 over

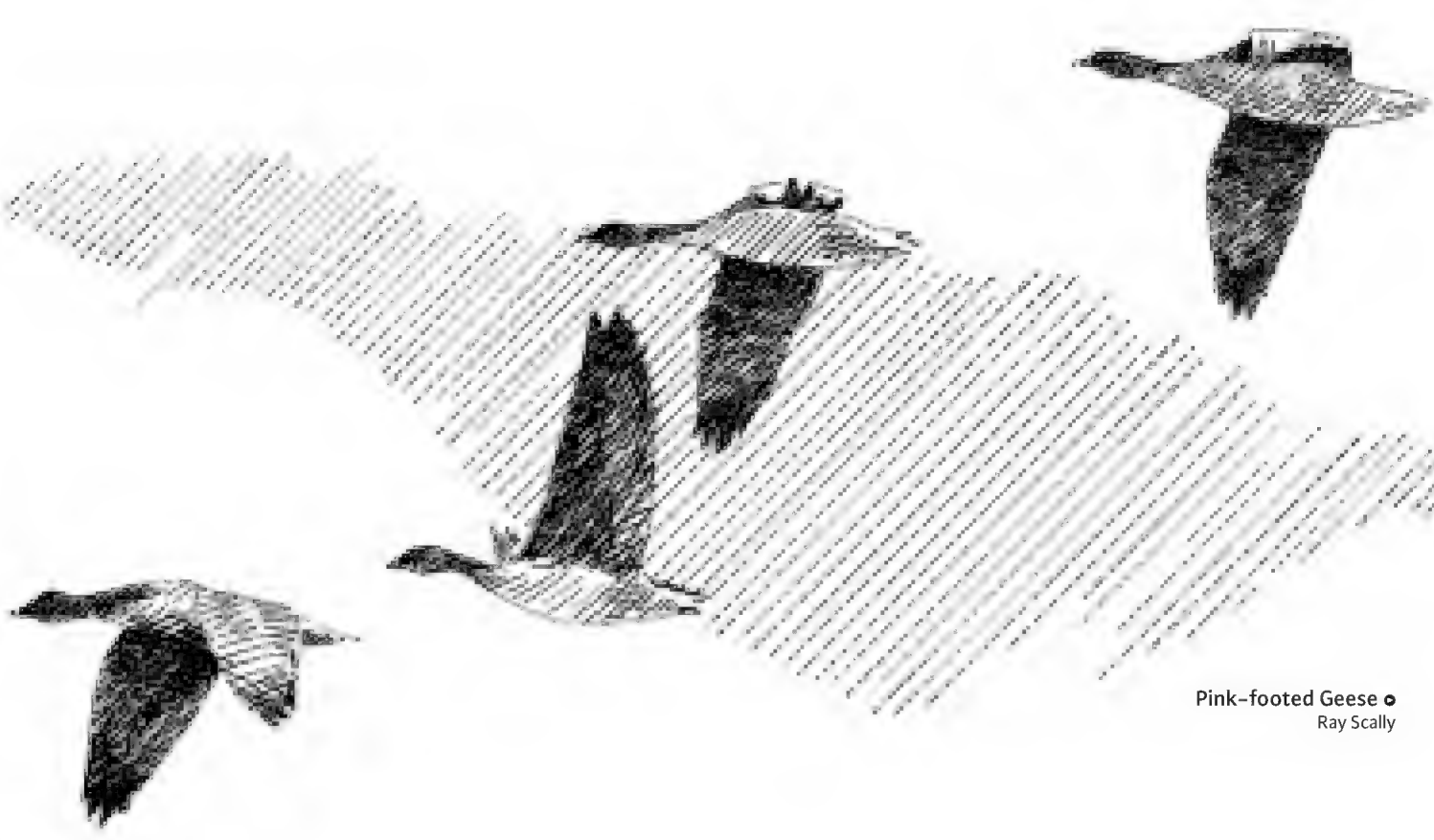
Potteric Car and 600 over Riddleston all on 1st February. This movement was not just confined to inland, with 220 passing Spurn, 200 flew past Flamborough and 490 north at Filey on 30th. On the opening day of February, 1000 tracked north at Filey and 220 flew past Flamborough. On 2nd 120 flew past Filey and 250 were logged heading north there on 3rd February.

Other significant February movements included 250 over Bradford on 13th, 200 through Spurn and 260 over Burniston on 19th, 200 over York on 20th, 300 over Brough Haven on 23rd, 500 over Paull Home Strays and 200 over Knaresborough on 24th. In March, there were 200 over Bellflask Quarry on 3rd, 250 over Bradley Hall Farm and 180 over Wintersett Res. The last significant tally in spring related to 207 over Malham Tarn on 7th April. In May, the last records were 55 over Flamborough on 12th, three were at Scorton Quarry and singles at Bolton-on-Swale and Swillington Ings on 13th, Lingham Water on 14th, North Cave on 15th, Swillington Ings on 16th and finally, Nosterfield on 19th.



A group of eight heading south at Flamborough on 7th September were the first of autumn and later seen off Spurn. There were then no further records until 12th when a skein of 30 headed south over Scalby Lodge. On 13th there were a number of skeins passing through the county, including 100 over Scalby Lodge, while 200 flew past Bempton Cliffs and 80 were noted over Malham Tarn. However these were nothing compared to the movement on 15th, when large numbers headed south at coastal watch points, with smaller numbers noted further inland. Counts included 1549 passing Filey, 2264 at Flamborough and 2811 through Spurn, though some of these counts will include duplicate flocks. Further inland there were 45 over Wintersett Res, 12 over Southfield Res, 23 over Staveley NR, 34 over Ruston Parva, 48 over Pulfin Bog and 350 over North Cave. Skeins continued to pass through the county all month, some of the larger ones included 150 past Flamborough on 16th, 125 over Redmires Res on 18th, 110 over Rawmarsh and 240 over Snaildon on 22nd. In the final week, 100 overflew Malham Tarn on 26th, followed by 125 over Worsborough and 130 over Denby Dale on 27th, 100 over Potteric Carr on 28th and finally, 550 over Scalby Lodge, 802 past Filey and 541 past Flamborough on 30th.

Typically, the largest movement did not start until mid-October when there were 750 over Strines on 11th, while three days later there were 700 over Fly Flats and Warley Moor Res, 1300 over Blacktoft, 1500 over Denholme Clough and Thornton Moor Res and 314 over Stockbridge NR, with 1010 over Strines the following day. On 16th there were 340 over Beighton Marsh NR, while on 17th there were 250 over Doncaster, 200 over Potteric Carr and Ovenden and 380 over Thornton Moor Res. Another large movement occurred between 20th and 30th October; on the former date, 237 flew past Flamborough and 250 tracked over Potteric Carr on, 300 flew through Filey on 21st, when 1500 tracked over Welton Waters and 3000 overflew Blacktoft the next day. In the last few



days of October 250 tracked over Bempton Cliffs and 820 overflowed Redmires Res on 29th and finally, 1000 overflew Blacktoft and 450 went past Filey on 30th.

Birds continued to move in November, with bests of: 3000 north-west over Blacktoft on 1st, 330 over Filey the next day and 250 over Beal Carrs, 220 over Scammonden and 115 over Barmston on 3rd. Skeins tracked south along the coast on 4th when 371 flew past Filey, 629 logged at Flamborough and 230 over Barmston, while 210 briefly touched down on Thorne Moors on 9th. Significant counts from mid-month included 665 over Thrybergh CP on 12th, 250 over Helpethorpe on 15th, 250 over Elland GP on 22nd, followed by 1500 over Blacktoft on 25th and lastly, 320 over Broomhill Flash on 29th November.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce winter visitor and migrant

All records are assumed to be of the Russian breeding population *albifrons*, which winters in small numbers in southern England, unless stated otherwise, as the Greenland race *flavirostris* is a rare bird in the county.

At the start of the year, two adults were at North Cave on New Year's Day and singles were at Staveley NR from 1st-3rd January, at Ripon Race Course from 1st March to 11th April, Beal Carrs on 2nd March and at Wykeham Lakes from 8th-16th April. Additionally, two were on the Long Bank, Easington from 21st-23rd March.

The first returning birds were 32 south over Saltend on 20th November, which were soon followed by six circling over Scalby Lodge the following day. In December five flew up the Humber at Spurn on 1st, an adult was present at Scalby Lodge from 9th-11th, with a different adult from 29th to the year end. Elsewhere, five were at Penistone on 24th, four were with Greylags at Tophill Low on 27th-28th, five were in the Lower Derwent Valley at Bank Island from 28th-30th and two flew west with 36 Pink-footed Geese over Nosterfield on 29th.

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* **A**

Two adults were at North Cave on 23rd November, with one still present the following day, and presumably the same two birds were also present on 26th November and 1st December (GAD *et al.*).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* **AC2 C4**
Amber list: fairly common feral breeder and winter visitor. BBS 48/222

The introduced population is at record levels nationally, having doubled in the last 12 years, and the county's largely sedentary feral population is still expanding. Seven of the top 14 sites of national importance are in the county: in rank order by five-year mean: - Nosterfield NR, Lower Derwent Ings, Tophill Low, Eccup Res, Humber estuary, Bolton-on-Swale GP and Hornsea Mere. Wintering birds include migrants, but few if any, are from Iceland or the amber-listed NW Scotland population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	104	76	29	21	37	21	84	6	28	40	6	220
Bolton-on-Swale	42	20	38	56	96	369	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Howard	2	17	32	24	12	370	80	33	101	400	535	263
East Park Hull	143	132	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	154
Eccup Res	520	750	-	-	-	200	750	1611	-	-	-	1224
Fairburn Ings	188	132	19	22	41	5	227	-	380	-	40	-
Hay-a-Park GP	168	390	5	9	40	210	200	310	641	1503	43	825
Hornsea Mere	28	127	84	29	116	74	410	885	118	165	271	-
Lingham Lake	560	1243	-	-	-	-	-	1200	2300	2287	850	-
Lockwood Beck	48	55	0	10	48	64	81	58	0	0	0	0
Lower Derwent NNR	1228	643	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1052	-

Breeding reported from: Allerthorpe GP (three broods), Blacktoft Sands, Cod Beck Res, Cold Edge Dam (three broods), Fairburn Ings, Fewston Res, Kex Gill Quarry, Harewood Dale, Harewood Park, Hatfield Moors, Heron Lakes, Rough (4 broods), Hornsea Mere, Knotford Nook, Leeshaw Res, Lindley Wood Res, Locker Tarn (three broods), Lockwood Beck (13 pairs with 60 goslings), Lower Barden Res, Margrove Ponds, Morton, McCann NR, North Bransholme (18 goslings), North Cave (six pairs), Norton Bottoms, Otley Wetland, Potteric Carr, Pulfin Bog (ten pairs), Scaling Dam (32 pairs with 217 goslings), Scalby Lodge Pond, Smallways, Southfield Res (seven broods), Swillington Ings, Weecher Res, Walton Hall, Wykeham Lakes (five broods). A survey at York revealed that there were 22 broods, totaling 88 goslings present in the city.

In the first three months, there were 160 at Wykeham Lakes on 1st January, 240 at Skirlington on 10th and 344 at High Eske on 14th. On 21st January, there were 135 at Catwick GP, 450 in the Lowthorpe area and 190 at Skipsea. Birds were present all year at Flamborough where the maximum was 215 on 27th January and on 28th there were 324 at Kelk GP and 130 at Allerthorpe. Other January maxima included 300 at Harewood Park and 103 at Potteric Carr. In February, there were 150 at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd, 400 at Watton NR on 6th, 120 on Grimwith Res on 14th, 113 at Catwick on 18th, 125 at Grimwith Res on 18th and 250 on Whitton Sands on 25th. High counts in March included 170 at High Eske on 13th, 108 at Catwick on 18th, 100 at Grimwith on 21st and 100 at Weecher Res.

Post breeding flocks included 320 at Paull Holme Strays on 29th August, a count of 700+ at North Cave on 15th September, 930 at Watton NR on 19th September, 165 at Potteric Carr on 30th, when there were 101 at Edderthorpe Flash. In October there were 300 at Swillington Ings on 6th, 120 over Rotherham on 17th, 90 at Grimwith Res on 19th, when there were 400 at High Eske, 160 at Dimmingdale on 30th and 200 at Skirlington on 31st. Towards the end of the year there were 250 at Wheldrake Ings and 130 at Catwick on 4th November, up to 510 at Wykeham Lakes, while a flock of 500+ were at Thorne Moors from 11th to 17th November.

Greylag Hybrids

What was thought to be a Greylag x Barnacle Goose hybrid was at Castle Howard on 2nd October and during the October WeBS count (on the 9th), there were single Greylag x Canada Goose hybrids at East Park (Hull), Pickering Park (Hull) and at Hay-a-Park.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* AC20,0,1,1,1

Feral breeder and vagrant; three previous individuals considered of natural origin

Breeds in Arctic North America, wintering along the Atlantic coast of U.S.A. Local feral populations make adjudication of genuine vagrants difficult, and most occurrences are dealt with in the Category E section of this report.

On 15th September, a white-morph flew south along the coast with a skein of Pink-footed Geese. First seen off Filey at 1140hrs (SC *et al.*), it was then seen off Flamborough at 1220hrs (AMa: BR *et al.*), Bridlington at 1229hrs, before it finally flew past Spurn at 1335hrs. Its progress was monitored as it flew towards East Anglia, finally touching down at Holkham, Norfolk at 1600hrs. Presumably the same flew south along the Yorkshire coast on 13th October 2006 and similarly north on 3rd May 2005.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* C2

Fairly common feral breeder, migrant and winter visitor. BBS 38/222

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375

This largely sedentary naturalized introduction continues to increase nationally.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	228	83	76	43	48	173	192	319	499	150	201	220
Castle Howard	12	98	179	67	47	210	232	29	70	16	208	238
East Park Hull	290	223	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
Eccup Res	1008	1	6	-	-	-	-	254	-	-	-	358
Fairburn Ings	383	320	301	153	160	37	428	300	300	300	449	112
Hay-a-Park GP	93	50	20	18	15	30	50	60	110	305	195	113
Harewood Park	900	900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1080
Hellifield Flash	250	100	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	192	164
Hornsea Mere	37	48	29	82	41	18	97	0	62	82	33	-
Ingbirchworth Res	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	374	339
Long Preston	362	300	62	-	-	-	-	-	248	-	348	473
Lower Derwent NNR	688	271	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	482	-
Malham Tarn	23	16	4	9	6	170	160	2	35	35	27	7

Some of the higher counts during the first half of the year included 320 at Rother Valley CP on 1st, 163 at Peasholme Park on 17th and 120 at Manningham Park in January, 157 at Otley Wetland in February and 100 at Gorple in April.

During the summer breeding was reported from: Aldwarke SW, Allerthorpe GP (five pairs), Anglers CP (11 pairs, 19 young), Birley Hay Dam, Broomhill Flash (four pairs, 16 young), Carlton Marsh (three pairs), East Lea, Ewden, Fairburn Ings (33 pairs), Farnhill Ings, Harewood Dale, Hay-a-Park two pairs, Hillsborough Park, Kex Gill Quarry, Langsett Res (13 young), Malham Tarn (two pairs), Old Moor, Otley Wetland (40 goslings), Peasholme Park, Scarborough, Potteric Carr (12 pairs), Primrose Valley, Pulfin Bog, Redmires Res (three broods, 13 young), Scalby Lodge Pond, Southfield Res (three broods, nine goslings), Thornton Moor Res, Tophill Low, Warley Moor Res, Weecher Res, Wharnccliffe Res, Winscar Res (20 pairs bred), Worsbrough (five pairs, 52 young), Wykeham Lakes (three broods). In May, a survey of York located 53 goslings in ten broods.

July flocks included 230 at Warley Moor Res, 180 at Ogden Res on 3rd, 230 at Fly Flatts on 15th and 100 at Boothwood Res. A count of 130 at Thorne Moors on 10th August was the maximum recorded there during the year, as was 200 at Filey Dams on 22nd. Post-breeding flocks in September included 120 at Carlton Marsh on 3rd, 120 at Ringstone Edge on 8th, 131 at Harthill Res on 13th, 108 at Bretton on 14th, while the maximum count at Ferry Moor Pond was 500+ on 25th. In December, there were 201 at Swinsty Res and 230 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 14th. A minimum of 150 were resident at Harewood Park.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **AC2E**

Amber list: uncommon migrant and winter visitor Oct – March. Occasional feral breeder

Breeds in east Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, the Baltic and high arctic Russia, with wintering birds in eastern England from Svalbard and possibly further east. The naturalised population continues to increase, with over 318 reported from the Humber estuary in February; likely escapes are treated separately at the end of this report, although undoubtedly some listed below are of questionable origin.

In January, a single was at Anglers CP on 1st and 5th and three were at Wheldrake Ings on 10th. In February, two were at Gouthwaite Res on 5th, one was at Howden Res on 17th and 22 were at Wheldrake Ings on 27th. Four were at Farnham GP on 4th March, followed by up to three at Tophill from 25th March to 19th April. Other April records included eight in off at Spurn on 9th and two at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th. Two were at Wykeham Lakes on 1st May and a single fed with Canada Geese at Swillington Ings on 7th.

An unusual spring passage was recorded in May: initially, 148 birds in four skeins headed past Spurn on 5th, two flew south past Filey, 113 headed north-west over Sunk Island and 86 were recorded over Flamborough. The following day 49 tracked over Flamborough and 40 flew past Filey; this movement was also reflected off the Dutch coast.

In September, singles were at Filey Dams from 8th–17th and Pulfin Bog from 8th–19th and one was at Paull Holme Strays on 24th. In October three were at North Cave on 1st, two at Lingham Water on 6th, two at Old Moor on 7th and, on the same date, two were at Tophill Low. Two were at Barmston on 11th, with three at Spurn on 13th and two were with Canada Geese at Lebberston on 17th. Passage was recorded from 18th October, when six flew northwest over Marske, 30 were watched coming in off the sea at Hummersea on 26th and three flew past Long Nab on 29th. Two were at Lingham Water on 2nd November and a lone individual was at Tophill Low on 11th November and again on 9th December. Other December records included one at Hemlington Lake from the 22nd to the year-end and singles at Beacon Ponds on 29th and Brough Airfield and Fairburn Ings on New Year’s Eve.

Barnacle Hybrids

Single Barnacle x Canada goose hybrids were at Hay-a-Park and at Anglers CP on 14th October. While a bird thought to be a Barnacle x Greylag hybrid was at Thrybergh CP on 18th March and at Castle Howard on 2nd October.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* **A**

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon migrant and winter visitor

Webs Status – Int. threshold 2200: GB threshold 981

Breeds in arctic Russia and winters on the southern North Sea coast, in declining numbers over the last decade although numbers of UK wintering birds increased for the third consecutive year, and numbers on the Humber were the highest ever recorded.

In the Spurn area, the highest count was 857 over the 16th/17th February, in fields just north of the Long Bank, with 500 still present here in March; 259 was the maximum ‘Humber’ count in April, after which one or two remained through the summer, with a bird present on four dates in August. In the second half of the year, the October maximum was 247, with 216 remaining in December.

Movements during the spring described as light; the highest count off Spurn related to 14 birds on 18th May, with 38 passing Spurn between the 17th February and 19th May. In February passage off Flamborough included four birds on 17th and five on 24th. Isolated late spring/early summer records away from the Humber included a single at Flamborough on 12th May, and a late record of four at Filey CP on 26th June.

Autumn’s first flew north past Spurn on 4th September, followed by ten on the sea off Hornsea Mere on 11th. Two flew past Flamborough on 15th and five headed south past Filey on 19th, when there were also 16 on the Humber at Spurn. Sea watching off Spurn produced 110 south on 24th and a total of 226 were recorded between 6th October and 24th November. Small numbers continued to be recorded passing Flamborough and Filey during October, including 11 and 23 respectively on 24th; in addition, 12 were off Skinningrove on the same date.

There were several inland sightings: at West Ayton on 13th January, at Wheldrake Ings on 21st –22nd March, Tophill Low from 19th–25th April, six at Paull Holme Strays on 27th September, at North Cave on 10th October and finally, a single at Fairburn on 31st October.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor

A small population from Svalbard of 3350 wintered at Lindisfarne in the first winter period, probably accounting for overshooting migrants in Yorkshire, although it is possible that some could also come from the East Canadian population, a few of which winter west of the Pennines and some 26,000 in Northern Ireland.

At the end of January, small numbers appeared after a period of strong north-westerlies. A single bird at Filey CP on 22nd, was followed by nine reorientating north off Filey (and Flamborough) and an additional seven in Filey CP on 23rd. Five headed north at Filey on 24th and two days later ten were near the Long Bank, Easington. Small numbers continued to be recorded through the spring, with a maximum of four at Spurn and two still present there in April. In May, a single was at Smallways on 23rd, while June produced singles at Spurn on 7th and one with a dark-bellied bird at Filey on 22nd.

During the autumn, the largest counts occurred in September, when three were at Filey CP on 3rd, ten off Flamborough on 4th, 26 were logged off Flamborough on 18th, four flew past Marine Drive on 26th, ten were off Flamborough on 27th, when two headed north past Spurn. In October, singles occasionally recorded at Spurn and a bird was at Far Grange Park from 31st through to 3rd November. Eight flew past Flamborough on 11th November, when seven were at Hawkness Point and another seven headed past Flamborough on 16th December.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* **C1E***

11,17,16,14,29

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has occasionally bred.

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium. The national population has doubled since 2000/01.

At the start of the year, a single remained at Rother Valley CP from 1st January to the end of March and another was at Anglers CP on 27th–28th January. Singles were at Ripon Race Course on 25th March, Dewsbury SW on 2nd April, and two were at Pit-House West on 14th and 27th April. In May five were on Broomhill Flash on 1st–2nd and a single followed at Pulfin Bog on 20th–26th and visited Tophill Low on 23rd. Two were at Farnham GP on 27th May and a long staying bird lingered at Anglers CP from 31st May to 21st August. Three were at Wykeham Lakes on 7th and 17th July, with two new birds present on 3rd August and then all five were present over 10th–11th. One at Nicholson’s Lagoons in late July was joined by another in August and this duo then toured the Ure Valley south of Ripon into November. In late August, a single was at Rother Valley CP on 30th. A long stayer that first appeared at Swillington Ings on 30th September then remained into the New Year; on 14th October, it visited Skelton Lake. A single appeared at Broomhill Flash on 7th November; two were at Rother Valley CP on 8th–10th November and in December singles were at Worsbrough on 10th and at Pulfin Bog on 15th.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 12/222

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3000: GB threshold 782

Nationally has slowly declined since 1997, and although numbers were only slightly lower than 2005/6, winter 2006/7 saw the lowest counts for 30 years, which was reflected on the Humber.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	5	7	3	6	6	2			3			4
Fairburn Ings	12	33	52	16	34	3	6	–	–	1	14	16
Lower Derwent NNR	67	92	102	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–
North Cave	39	20	148	70	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Humber	3138	3018	1691	1559	977	322	4925	4642	4572	4434	2830	265
Old Moor	12	12	6	8	5	2	–	–	0	–	–	–
Smallways	14	13	10	42	40	43	19	6	1	–	3	6
South Tees	10	0	93	140	132	31	46	38	33	97	10	97
Spurn Point	165	141	63	90	14	58	182	950	166	1573	439	162
Swillington Ings	1	26	8	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Tophill Low	13	8	2	5	11	11	5	16	–	1	–	–

The highest counts came from sites along the Humber, as illustrated in the table. Counts at Paull Holme Strays included: 310 in March, 133 in June, then declining to just 25 in September. At Sunk Island there were 150 in February, 60 in May and 220 in June. Maximum counts at Brough Haven included 64 in January, 310 in February,

303 in April, declining to 133 in May, 81 in June and just eight in July as birds moved away to moult. Numbers started to increase from the end of August, and in September, there were 270 at Brough Haven on 27th and 180 on 19th November.

Away from the Humber, the area around the Lower Derwent NNR also proved productive with up to 47 at Wheldrake Ings in January and 30 birds in February. Elsewhere, there were 63 north at Filey on 23rd January, up to 40 on Hatfield Moors and 25 at Broomhill Flash in February and 20 at both Kilnsea and at Nosterfield NR in March.

During the spring, displaying birds were at Beal Carrs, Cononley Ings and at Winterset Res, though there was no proof of breeding. Successful breeding was recorded from Brough Haven (at least two broods), Fairburn Ings (two broods of eight and five), North Cave (a brood of six), Spurn (a brood of nine at the Narrows), Tophill Low (a brood of nine) and there were 51 young at Smallways. A pair with 12 small young at Thrybergh CP in May was the first proven breeding record there and 52 young were recorded at Paull Holme Strays. Breeding attempted at Old Moor, where there were three pairs present, but all were thought to have been washed out by the summer floods.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* C1E*
Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country. BBS 1/222

Britain’s largely sedentary feral population has increased. There is some evidence of seasonal migration in late March to May and October/November, but local introductions, especially at Harewood Park, may mostly account for the county’s increasing feral population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Millhouses area	3	-	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
Strid Wood	7	5	5	5	5	-	-	-	1	58	30	14
Tyzack’s Dam	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8

At the start of the year, there were singles at Rother Valley CP on 1st January and on 6th there were singles on Ingbirchworth Res, Ryburn and Scout Dike Res and six more on Whirlow Park. Singles were also present at Ravenfield Park on 7th, Hebden Bridge on 10th and at Ryburn on 14th. Two birds were at Mytholmroyd on 8th and at Ryburn on 28th. A male was also present on the canal at Bingley from 25th January to 8th February. Other February records included singles at Lakeside Lodge, Scarborough on 17th and at Firsby Res on 24th. In March a male was at Harthill Res on 13th, a pair at Bank Island 14th, while three (a male and two females) at Winterset Res on 21st were the first there since an escaped bird was present in 1989. Three were at Dewsbury SW on 26th and singles were on the canal at Shipley Glen on 26th and at Old Moor on 28th. In April two females were in Filey Bay on 11th, and single at Harthill Res on 16th, Cloughton on 21st, Aldwark SW on 22nd, with two at Hebden Bridge on 30th, while on the same date two at Farnhill Ings was a new species for the Cononley area.

In the Scarborough area, there were birds present throughout the year around the Troutsdale / Hackness area, with a maximum of 38 at Hackness on 30th November. Although several pairs were present during the breeding season there were no signs of any broods. In the west of the county, there were regular sightings from along the river Wharfe, where there were three in Burnsall in April, though most records came from the Strid Wood, Bolton Abbey area where there were seven present in January and up to five present during the spring. The highest count during the year was 58 at Strid Wood on 30th October, which was also the highest count in the county this year. Successful



Mandarin Duck ◉
Colin Wilkinson

breeding was recorded from the river Wharfe, where up to 26 ducklings were noted. Up to ten birds were also present throughout the year at Harewood Park (Leeds), where the maximum was 25 in December. Breeding was proved at Harewood Park and at nearby Eccup Res. In Sheffield, there were regular sightings all year on the river Sheaf, especially along the stretch between Heeley and Abbeydale with most reports coming from the Millhouses area, where there was a maximum of four pairs in March. Birds were also present at nearby Beauchief where there were at least two pairs in January.

During the final half of the year, there were singles on river Ure at Hawes on 24th July, at Thrybergh CP on 8th September, while a male at Potteric Carr on 21st September was the first since 1993. In October, a male was at Castle Howard on 14th and pairs were at Wheldrake Ings on 15th and 22nd, with a pair at Langsett Res on the latter date. In the final months, there were males at Old Moor on 12th and Farnhill Ings on 29th November and in December there were singles at Cononley 17th, Lower Hambleton on 23rd and Rother Valley CP on 29th.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana* A 1,1,0,2,1
Extremely rare visitor from North America; 19 previous records

At the start of the year, a first-winter drake present at Tophill Low since October 2006 remained until 18th March. It also visited Pulfin Bog on 29th January where it constituted the first site record (EJH: RL). After missing for two weeks towards the end of March, it reappeared at Tophill on 3rd April and then again visited Pulfin Bog on 6th April. Another first-winter drake, first found at Wheldrake Ings in December 2006, was briefly at Thorganby Ings on 17th February, before it became elusive once more. It was then refound at Bubwith Ings on 13th March, where it was joined by a second first-winter the following day (AT *et al.*). Both lingered for several weeks, although they went missing on and off, with the last sighting on 26th April. Although sightings at both sites were sporadic, all three were present at their respective locations on 18th March ensuring the statistics advance with one new individual.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* A
Amber list: rare breeder; common migrant and winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 15000: GB threshold 4060

Breeds across northern Europe and Asia, wintering to the south. Following several years of steady growth, the 2006/7 national wintering population fell by 20%.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brough Haven	12	25	40	-	-	-	-	-	97	110	252	400
Castle Howard	43	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	11	17	112	190
Catwick GP	74	100	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eccup Res	450	641	508	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	206	307
Edderthorpe Flash	145	213	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	37	-	148
Fairburn Ings	186	282	227	4	0	-	-	-	64	300	-	-
Hay-a-Park GP	95	224	84	10	1	1	1	4	136	194	279	133
Hellifield Flash	240	150	124	-	-	-	-	-	58	135	80	59
Hornsea Mere	165	215	96	240	40	21	6	45	65	265	145	-
Long Preston	877	414	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	731
Lower Derwent NNR	10,124	11,710	11,706	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7335	-
North Humber	2805	2470	310	46	0	0	-	-	618	946	1643	591
Nosterfield NR	-	-	-	550	6	6	-	-	-	300	560	560
Old Moor	800	700	627	360	6	1	2	20	143	304	580	600
Pulfin Bog	325	300	310	150	8	1	1	0	0	36	65	390
Scaling Dam	27	26	12	2	2	0	3	2	18	36	42	36
Smallways	86	127	108	61	8	9	5	4	29	9	147	129
Southfield Res	306	295	145	53	0	0	1	0	43	25	69	148
South Tees	53	25	8	0	0	0	0	0	9	49	80	57
Swillington Ings	200	200	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	200	-
Tophill Low	845	495	52	23	11	0	-	16	130	240	428	514
Winterset Res	280	396	206	220	0	0	2	8	100	293	271	409

Maximum counts in the first four months included 250 at Anglers CP, 150 at Bellflask Quarry, 460 at Scalby Lodge Pond and 306 on Southfield Res, 70 at Filey Dams on 11th, 50 at Castle Howard. In February, there were 200 at Broomhill Flash on 7th, 400 at Whitton Sands on 25th, 220 at Rother Valley CP, 100 at Catwick Flash and 75 at Grimwith Res. The Lower Derwent NNR held the largest numbers with c.2000 at Wheldrake Ings on 6th and at North Duffield Carrs on 26th February, c.1000 birds were still present at Wheldrake Ings on 11th March, while there 250 at Bubwith Ings on 27th. Also in March, there were 150 at Paull Holme Strays on 1st, 137 at Hellifield Flash on 28th, 80 in Filey Bay on 10th and 60 at Pugney’s CP on 30th.

During the summer, there were no confirmed breeding records, though six pairs were present on five traditional breeding sites.

Evidence of autumn passage was first noted in July when there were two at Scaling Dam on 8th and two followed at Spurn on 26th. Five flew past Marine Drive on 22nd August. Small numbers were then noted passing coastal watch points until the end of the year; passage peaked on 27th September when 294 were noted heading north at Marine Drive/Long Nab, 229 headed north at Filey, 277 flew past Flamborough and on the following day, 223 tracked past Spurn. In October 400 flew past Spurn on 4th, with 100 past Flamborough on 13th. Passage had once again declined by November; the only three-figure count was 205 past Spurn on 21st.

Over the last three months, numbers were low; the highest included 400 at Watton NR on 9th, 60 at Kettleness on 14th, 99 at Beal Carrs on 24th and 120 at Bellflask Quarry on 28th October. In November, there were 363 at Paull Holme Strays on 2nd, 200 at Wheldrake Ings on 4th and 82 at Lindley Wood Res on 12th. In December 190 were at Castle Howard on 10th, 274 at Lingham Water, 200 at Bellflask Quarry on 24th, 165 on Heron Lakes (Routh) on 26th and finally, 600 were off Scalby Mills on 29th.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* **AC**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder; winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 171
Having increased nationally and locally for thirty years, 2006/07 saw a 20% drop nationally in numbers. Locally numbers held up well at the premier site, Fairburn Ings, but numbers were well down at the second site, Hornsea Mere.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Catcliffe Flash	19	14	11	9	6	9	8	37	123	135	102	25
Fairburn Ings	103	40	18	81	84	95	45	–	206	206	206	318
Hay-a-Park	18	20	20	2	1	–	1	23	48	69	41	52
Hornsea Mere	72	112	86	74	18	61	72	86	119	215	67	4
Lower Derwent NNR	111	229	319	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–
North Humber	75	68	46	49	27	2	18	11	–	18	13	15
North Cave	55	31	27	4	2	–	–	–	–	71	40	24
Old Moor	85	145	196	168	91	136	73	226	210	221	195	92
Potteric Carr	45	51	27	15	16	40	–	111	176	–	86	78
Rother Valley CP	48	36	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	8	19
Southfield Res	47	39	25	7	5	4	4	13	2	2	5	25
South Tees	17	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	10	23
Swillington Ings	2	39	141	154	71	137	–	6	10	42	75	258
Thrybergh CP	6	15	5	5	2	11	8	7	5	2	9	6
Treeton Dyke	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	42	42	47	69
Tophill Low	73	50	13	38	62	33	2	223	181	65	28	29
Winterset Res	86	66	28	41	12	13	9	19	29	66	94	74

While historically both Fairburn Ings and Hornsea Mere were the premier sites, only the October count at Hornsea managed to meet the GB WeBS qualifying threshold. The Lower Derwent NNR and Old Moor are perhaps now the two most important sites. Maximum counts included in January: 130 at Saltmarsh Delph, 55 at Sprotbrough Flash, 47 at Southfield Res, 20 at both Anglers CP and Castle Howard, 13 on Southern Washlands NR, 12 at Filey Dams and ten at Farnham GP. There were 30 on Wheldrake Ings in February, when there were also 17 on Thorne Moors and ten at Welton Waters. Other higher counts included 29 at Nosterfield NR, 20 at Anglers CP, 16 on Beal Carrs and 15 on Pulfin Bog.

A minimum of 48 broods recorded from 13 sites, with pairs present at many more locations. June’s wet weather adversely affected breeding on some waters; for example, the two broods at Anglers CP both failed to fledge, at least ten pairs were present on Nosterfield NR, but most failed at the egg stage and breeding was affected on both Broomhill Flash and Old Moor. Successful breeding was reported from Broomhill Flash (five broods), Carlton Marsh (two broods), Farnham GP (two broods), Hay-a-Park (a brood of 11), Lower Derwent NNR (15 broods), Swillington Ings (six pairs), Thorne Moors (a brood of six), North Cave (four broods), Potteric Carr (a brood of six), Winterset Res (two broods) and Blacktoft (seven pairs).

During the second half of the year, there were 38 at Pulfin Bog and ten at Aldwarke SW in August, nine at Silverwood Lagoon in September, 15 at Blackburn Meadows NR and 20 at Bellflask Quarry in November. December maxima included 35 at Rodley NR, 30 at Scarthingwell Lake, 17 Ulley CP and nine at Filey Dams.

Gadwall Hybrids
There were two reports of such hybrids; a male Gadwall hybrid paired up to female Mallard at Firsby Res on 14th May and in December, a male Gadwall x Teal was at Southfield Res on 27th.

TEAL *Anas crecca* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 5000: GB threshold 1920
Breeds from Iceland east to Siberia, with a small British population. Numbers wintering in the county can fluctuate annually quite dramatically, probably depending on weather conditions on the continent, but the overall trend has been upwards. However, in line with some other species, numbers were considerably down in the first winter period this year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	33	25	21	68	1	2	2	8	22	10	14	57
Beal Carrs	155	275	170	100	6	2	11	9	17	24	100	73
Edderthorpe Flash	290	60	–	26	–	–	–	–	66	65	–	130
Fairburn Ings	376	300	29	63	0	–	5	50	50	50	50	50
Filey Dams	90	85	45	12	–	–	–	–	–	173	–	80
Gouthwaite Res	372	327	144	–	–	–	–	265	480	200	700	524
Hellifield Flash	55	78	32	–	–	–	–	–	39	125	21	8
Hornsea Mere	35	85	90	25	10	2	27	155	230	165	52	–
Long Preston	33	186	186	–	–	–	–	–	4	22	37	15
Lower Derwent NNR	4221	3181	2513	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3485	–
North Cave	212	284	89	2	2	2	–	–	–	104	300	312
North Humber	1775	1345	517	169	9	0	51	471	220	669	509	954
Nosterfield NR	1047	500	180	65	3	3	3	–	139	–	104	337
Old Moor	214	235	150	66	2	10	12	291	350	551	400	320
Potteric Carr	136	211	47	41	2	2		16	75	44	80	231
Pulfin & High Eske	27	15	40	50	0	2	0	2	12	6	1	5
Scaling Dam	210	148	38	8	12	9	10	15	97	167	228	268
South Tees	99	9	20	10	1	0	0	17	149	107	46	184
Thrybergh Banks	25	50	18	4	–	–	–	–	5	10	30	38
Tophill Low	574	360	74	38	10	18	6	150	1640	788	82	58

Away from some of the WEBS count sites, some of the higher counts included 81 at Rother Valley CP in January, and February congregations included 355 at Skelton Lake and 160 at Smallways. In March, there were 150 at Bubwith Ings and April’s maximum was 500 at North Duffield Carrs, with 266 at Spurn in the same month.

A number of sites held pairs over the summer, though breeding proved at only four locations. A brood of six on Lowther Lake was the first proof of breeding in the Leeds area for 25 years. Breeding proved on Thorne Moors, a brood of eight was at Scaling Dam and a brood of seven somehow survived the floods at Wombwell Ings.

During autumn offshore passage started in August when 86 flew south past Filey on 6th. A period of strong northerly winds from the 19th induced further passage, with 250 heading past Filey, 258 off Flamborough and 158 off Spurn. On 20th, 80 headed past Filey, 176 were recorded off Flamborough, and the next day

witnessed 208 passing Filey and 176 off Flamborough. Numbers then dropped until September with 167 past Flamborough and 311 past Spurn on 23rd; numbers peaked the following day, with 250 past Flamborough and 1272 past Spurn.

During the final half, a count of 208 on Thorne Moors in September was the site's maximum for the year, while in October, there were 211 on Swillington Ings. While in November, there were 250 on Skelton Lake and 120 on Upper Barden Res. During the autumn, a leucistic bird was present at Old Moor.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* A

5,3,3,2,3

Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 57 previous records

Breeds across North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor

There were four records, presumed to relate to three individuals, with all in the first half. A drake photographed at Bretton CP on 7th January constituted the first (WF) and floodwater at West Carlton, near Aldbrough on 24th February attracted the next (AFJ *et al.*). What may well have been the same individual then appeared at Tophill Low on 1st March (WFC). The last record comprised of a drake at North Duffield Carrs on 4th April (CSR *et al.*).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* AC

Amber list: fairly common breeder; common migrant and winter visitor

BBS 115/222: +8% (+27) 1994-2007, -30% (+6) 2006-07

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 3520

There continues to be a long-term decline in winter numbers based on WeBS, possibly due to decreased immigration, with 10% less recorded nationally than in 2005/06. Nationally has increased rapidly as a breeding bird, but a marked 30% decline in numbers recorded on regional BBS surveys.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Albert Park	145	173	162	139	89	123	104	202	242	192	187	211
Beal Carrs	50	200	95	60	75	130	84	370	400	157	87	33
Castle Howard	177	65	43	37	26	72	108	183	186	206	184	240
Cononley Ings	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	-	275
Edderthorpe Flash	330	103	-	20	-	-	-	-	1000	400	-	75
Fairburn Ings	412	183	125	141	133	-	203	500	500	-	-	235
Hornsea Mere	290	310	125	90	110	80	194	170	270	360	215	-
Lockwood Beck	124	109	4	2	2	4	7	0	14	44	20	4
Lower Derwent NNR	1586	1436	1091	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1023	-
North Cave	217	113	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	217	350
North Humber	1285	1136	549	473	277	138	48	349	284	723	531	466
Ogden Res	80	82	-	7	-	-	80	120	80	85	110	92
Old Moor	220	180	174	148	143	149	129	599	315	323	180	224
Potteric Carr	300	153	19	100	80	39	-	-	-	-	200	770
Pugneys CP	67	17	27	27	22	43	54	57	86	83	61	84
Pulfin & High Eske	170	-	-	20	20	57	30	35	204	135	270	330
Red Mires Res	30	52	33	12	24	28	-	-	140	130	83	-
Rodley NR	17	23	22	27	31	100	55	64	86	70	59	63
Scaling Dam	163	167	70	45	15	25	51	166	132	181	145	170
Southfield Res	492	450	127	35	82	108	-	210	117	280	246	368
South Tees	44	15	26	32	8	26	16	65	80	58	32	60
Spurn	47	37	24	15	13	20	10	25	28	59	62	45
Tophill Low	520	160	56	86	73	110	70	395	640	311	159	170
Ulley CP	51	42	28	31	19	13	36	200	-	134	150	-
Winterset Res	110	33	23	38	50	44	46	252	112	132	162	102

In addition to the WeBS counts maxima included 143 at Low Bradfield, 126 at Burton Riggs, 144 at Cononley Ings, 193 at Eccup Res, 305 at Lingham Water, 140 at Nosterfield NR, 130 at Shibden Park, 492 at Southfield Res, 193

at Swillington Ings and 131 at Yeadon Tarn. In February, there were 310 at Dale Dike Res, 390 at Grimwith Res, 185 at Porter Brook, 100 at Rother Valley CP and 250 at Wheldrake Ings. Other spring records included 124 at Porter Brook in March and 136 at Dale Dike Res in April.

During the summer, breeding was reported from many sites, though success thought to be mixed. Heavy rain and extensive flooding occurred at a critical time with many nests/young washed away; some sites reported that only females that attempted to breed either early/late in the season were successful. Breeding took place at: Aldwark SW (five broods), Allerthorpe, Atwick, Blacktoft Sands, Bolton Abbey, Broomhill Flash (five broods), Cononley Ings recording area (33 broods), Cowling, Dale Dike Res (three broods), Dead Eye, Fairburn Ings (16 pairs bred), Filey Dams, Hay-a-Park, Hawes, Jervaulx Abbey, Knaresborough, Larkfield Tarn, Lowthorpe and Langsett Res. Elsewhere breeding was recorded at: Malham Tarn (four broods), Morehall Res, North Cave, North Ferriby, Potteric Carr, Pulfin Bog, Ripon (100 young on river Skeld), Redmires Res (five broods), Rodley NR, Sand Hutton (York), Silverwood Lagoon, Southfield Res (six broods), Sowerby, Spurn, Thorne Moors, Tyzack's Dam, Ulley CP, Warley Moor, Winterset Res (38 broods) and York.

Post-breeding gatherings included at least 100 birds at Sunk Island in June and Skipton SW in July. The highest August counts included 135 at Cononley Lead Mine, 100 at Malham Tarn, 213 Nosterfield NR, 120 Ogden Res, 180 at both Staveley GP and Leighton Res, 213 at Smallways and 110 at Wharnccliffe Chase. In September, there were 230 at Cononley Ings, 129 at Copgrove, 102 at Treeton Dyke, 250 at Thorne Moors, 100 at Wheldrake Ings and 289 at Yeadon Tarn. In October, there were 150 at Castle Howard, 187 at Dale Dike Res, 550 at Grimwith Res, 370 at Lowther Lake, 400 at Thorne Moors, 150 at Thornton Steward and 140 at Watton NR. November maxima included 252 at Harewood Park, 400 at Gouthwaite Res, 153 at Lindley Wood Res, 128 at Roundhay Park, 108 at Scampston Park, 100 at Strid Wood, 143 at Smallways and 150 at Wheldrake Ings. In the final month of the year, there were 136 at Damflask Res, 110 at Copgrove, 220 at Cononley Ings, 130 on the river at Hawes, 216 on Lingham Water, 182 Lindley Wood Res, 150 at Staveley, 200 on Thorne Moors and 250 at Worsbrough Res.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder, uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 279

Nationally, numbers have been fairly stable, although there was a slight fall in 2006/07.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	114	156	6	2	1	-	-	-	7	4	14	2
Lower Derwent NNR	656	632	353	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	-
Long Preston	185	88	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22

Records received from over 60 sites, though they seldom involved more than three and were generally short-stayers. The Lower Derwent NNR remains the stronghold, with at least 200 at Wheldrake Ings and 80 at North Duffield Carrs in January; 50 were still at Wheldrake Ings in mid-February and at least 30 remained at North Duffield Carrs in March. Maximum counts from elsewhere included: nine at Southfield Res and Tophill Low in January, eight at Hornsea Mere, seven at Silsden Res, five at Tophill Low, four at Wighill Ings and three at Cononley Ings, Farnham GP and at Pulfin Bog. In February, there were 27 on the Humber at Spurn, 20 at Swillington Ings, eight at Southfield Res, seven at Potteric Carr and up to four at North Cave; in addition, there were five at Hellifield Flash in March. During the summer, there were very few reports received and no reports of breeding attempts.

The first returning birds appeared from mid-July, when up to three were present on the flood waters at Cononley Ings from 12th, two were at Nosterfield NR on 14th and three were at Tophill Low on 30th. Numbers began to increase in August, when there were up to two at Hornsea Mere, Ringstone Edge, Rother Valley CP, Smallways, Thrybergh CP, and Tophill Low. Maximum September counts included 22 at Blacktoft, 21 at Swillington Ings, 16 at Hornsea Mere, 15 at both Thorne Moors and Watton NR, 13 on Wombwell Ings, 12 on Winterset Res, six on Anglers CP and five at Potteric Carr. In October, Swillington Ings continued to play host to good numbers, with up to still 24 present. During the last two months there were 12 at Swillington Ings in November and 53 at Spurn, ten at Tophill Low, eight at Cononley Ings and seven at Potteric Carr in December, with small counts from other localities.

Along the coast, autumn passage began at Spurn, when three headed south on 14th August; later in the month one flew past Marine Drive on 23rd and a single dropped onto Filey Dams on 31st. Passage during the rest of the autumn was light, with most day totals involving singles. Passage peaked around 23rd September,

when six flew north past Filey and 20 were recorded passing Spurn. Three were also noted passing Spurn the following day, four headed north past Filey on 26th and three more flew south on 28th. Autumn totals included 122 off Spurn, at least nine passing Flamborough and 12 flew past Marine Drive.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* A
Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant March – Oct. BBS o/222

The first of spring appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 17th March, soon followed by a pair at Pulfin Bog on 24th. In April, a pair was at Figham, Beverley on 7th, with a male still present here the following day. On 14th a pair was at Swillington Ings and a male was on Fairburn Ings. On 15th a pair that flew west near Widdop Res constituted only the sixth record for Calderdale; on the same date, there were three on Swillington Ings. On 16th, four arrived at North Duffield Carrs and subsequent sightings included: one at Wheldrake Ings on 19th, two at Fairburn Ings on 20th, three at North Duffield on 24th, a single at Tophill Low on 25th and males at both South Gare and Hornsea Mere on 29th April.

On 1st May a drake was at Broomhill Flash, where a second male joined it the following day. Also on 2nd a male was at Old Moor. A male was at Pugneys CP on 3rd, a pair was at Nosterfield NR the following day and one at Edderthorpe Flash on 5th. May and June brought regular reports from: Blacktoft Sands (maximum of five on 26th May), Broomhill Flash (up to two males), Fairburn Ings, Flasks Lake (a pair from 13th to 31st May), North Cave (a pair), Nosterfield NR (up to two males and a female), Old Moor (up to two males), Staveley NR (a male from 13th–19th May), Swillington Ings (up to three males and a female) and Tophill Low (up to two males). While breeding is always difficult to prove, a brood of seven ducklings was noted at the Lower Derwent NNR.

The only July records were from Blacktoft Sands, where an eclipse drake was joined by a juvenile on 9th and two juveniles on 27th and at Tophill Low. Additionally, on the coast one flew south past Filey Brigg on 20th July. In August, reports included a pair at North Cave, one on Old Moor, eight on Wheldrake Ings on 14th and up to 11 on Tophill Low on 16th. Elsewhere, there were two at Brough Airfield on 18th and one was at Filey Dams between the 22nd August and 11th September. Numbers rapidly declined in September with a bird at Swillington Ings on 7th, two at North Duffield Carrs between the 10th–13th, one headed north past Flamborough on 11th, one at Beacon Ponds on 15th and two at Staveley NR on 23rd. The final records were singles at Tophill Low on 5th, Swillington Ings on 9th and one was at Potteric Carr from 14th–30th October.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* A
Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS o/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 148
The wintering population appears to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Catcliffe Flash	13	25	29	3	–	–	–	12	31	34	19	25
Edderthorpe Flash	16	13	–	2	–	–	–	–	51	50	–	68
Fairburn Ings	74	22	93	36	18	6	4	50	50	50	133	50
Hornsea Mere	65	112	96	34	62	81	39	84	106	142	78	–
Lower Derwent NNR	182	286	301	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	26	–
North Humber	82	86	54	74	13	1	26	82	69	49	69	53
North Cave	18	12	19	20	2	–	–	–	–	27	6	18
Old Moor	65	55	48	36	10	36	30	118	133	180	102	58
Potteric Carr	50	25	31	12	5	–	–	–	36	–	111	80
Pulfin Bog	26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	14	26
Rother Valley CP	32	12	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	20	6
South Tees	1	6	4	0	0	0	3	6	13	6	8	16
Tophill Low	58	115	64	44	4	19	–	163	57	28	19	21
Winterset Res	6	30	22	17	4	2	0	7	17	18	87	67

In addition to the totals detailed in the table, higher counts included 51 at Nosterfield NR and 40 on Pugneys CP in January, 200 on Wheldrake Ings in February and 20 on Anglers CP in March. Maximum counts from elsewhere included: ten at Aldwarke SW in January, ten on Thrybergh CP and 11 at Blue Man’s Bower in February and 25 at Swillington Ings in March. Successful breeding reported from eight sites: three broods totalling 12 young from Broomhill Flash; at least one pair bred at North Cave, raising five young and there were ten pairs at

Nosterfield NR, though most failed. At Swillington Ings up to four pairs present and breeding confirmed; on Thorne Moors there were three/four pairs and successful breeding was confirmed when a female with ten young was seen; bred on Wombwell Ings, where 12 young were noted. At least 12 pairs bred on the Lower Derwent NNR, producing some 67+ young, while four pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands.

Autumn coastal passage was light with a total of 33 birds recorded heading south past Spurn between 18th August and 21st November. Elsewhere, 12 headed past Filey on 20th August, with 14 south at both Flamborough and Filey on 28th October. During the final period, there were eight on Scalby Lodge Pond in July, 12 on Thorne Moors in August and 17 at Atwick in September. Counts increased in October with 278 at Swillington Ings, 36 at Eccup Res, 33 at Beal Carrs and 30 at Leventhorpe Hall Pond and Skelton Lake, followed by 41 at Harewood Park in November and 16 at Welton Waters in December.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* AC2E* 11,20,16,8,12
Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status.

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections, with a feral population in the Thames Valley of over 300 birds and these probably account for most, if not all the reports.

At the start of the year, a tame drake was present at Pugneys CP where it was present to at least 11th May. What was almost certainly the same bird was then present on 23rd September and 27th December. The only other report at the start of the year was of two ducks and a drake present at Old Moor on 4th February. There were then no further reports until May, when five drakes were present at Potteric Car on 25th; the first record there since 2004. In October, a drake was at Otley Wetland from 9th where it was present until the end of the year, while a pair was at Winterset Res from 24th–26th October.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* A
Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3500: GB threshold 595

Breeds across northern Eurasia, including eastern Britain, but the declining wintering population was nationally at second lowest for 40 years, and this pattern was replicated in the county.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	66	34	2	0	0	0	2	4	7	8	5	7
Beal Carrs	4	23	21	9	0	1	1	1	1	10	17	10
Fairburn Ings	84	69	39	29	27	2	39	–	102	8	–	153
Hay–a–Park GP	75	94	4	3	1	1	1	9	6	20	65	75
Hornsea Mere	710	490	215	190	280	74	79	255	215	410	255	–
Lower Derwent NNR	209	321	124	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Malham Tarn	220	50	6	0	0	2	20	25	50	100	200	150
North Cave	38	32	20	2	–	–	–	–	–	49	7	8
North Humber	173	170	108	137	66	0	4	5	–	21	9	150

In addition to the above, some of the higher counts included 150 at Bellflask Quarry over January and February. Other February records included 70 birds at both Rother Valley CP and Wheldrake Ings, 92 at Ripon Race Course, 60 on Nosterfield NR, 46 on Catwick GP, 35 on Gouthwaite Res and 20 at Castle Howard. While several sites reported birds over the summer, confirmed breeding came from just three sites: a brood of seven was at Heron Lakes, Routh, while two pairs bred at Potteric Carr (seven young were on Willow Marsh on 18th May and a pair with five small young on Huxter Well on 9th June) and six pairs bred at Blacktoft. Counts were

lower in the final half of the year: with 202 Brough Airfield, 122 on Southfield Res, up to 80 on Lingham Water, 70 on Welton Waters and 46 on Staveley in December. A female present at North Cave in September had been ringed in the nest in June at Saint-Philbert-De-Grande-Lieu, France.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* **A**

0,0,0,0,1

Rare visitor

A juvenile female arrived with an influx of Pochard to Hornsea Mere on 22nd August. After regular appearances over several days, its habits became less predictable over time; the last confirmed sighting came on 29th September (EJH: RL *et al.*). This was the first county record since a male at Watton NR on 27th January 2001.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* **A**

4,3,4,2,1

Rare visitor, with pattern of returning wintering individuals

This North American duck is an annual visitor to the county, with frequent long-stayers.

There were two records for this rare North American duck; a legacy from 2006, a drake continued to make sporadic appearances on Hemlington Lake in January; it appeared four times between 10th and 26th. The only 'new' record related to a male at Rother Valley CP from 29th April to 5th May (DMB *et al.*).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 10/222

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 12000: GB threshold 901

The breeding and wintering populations appear to be increasing in line with national trends, although there was a decline in winter 2006/07: the peak count of 600 at Hornsea Mere in January was less than half the 2002/03 maximum.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	72	38	34	54	0	13	21	143	19	122	168	171
Beal Carrs	25	51	38	39	40	13	13	2	12	16	23	43
Brandesburton	54	69	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	44
Catwick GP	137	89	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairburn Ings	143	186	143	184	54	-	109	268	-	-	-	90
Hay-a-Park GP	58	58	39	-	-	-	-	-	91	80	54	68
Hornsea Mere	600	420	315	95	115	60	114	210	390	1500	310	-
North Humber	99	306	211	267	173	40	28	16	35	54	56	8
North Cave	93	46	48	50	50	-	-	-	-	8	44	76
Old Moor	97	89	149	196	134	183	157	154	98	100	102	92
Otley Wetlands	-	-	61	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60

Breeding reported from 39 sites, with a minimum of 93 broods. Success mixed with some areas suffering from the prolonged rain and flooding. For example, there was only one brood at Malham Tarn and Rodley NR reported their worst breeding season to date. However, a brood at Scalby Lodge Pond was the first breeding record for the site. Breeding was also recorded at: Aldwarke SW (three broods), Allerthorpe GP (one brood), Anglers CP (four broods), Beal Carrs (two broods), Bellflask Quarry (three broods), Broomhill Flash (eight broods), Catcliffe Flash (two broods), Copgrove Lake (one brood), Fairburn Ings where 13 pairs bred. Further

breeding was established at: Farnham GP (five pairs), Ferry More Pond, Filey Dams, Flasks Lake (two broods), Hay-a-Park, Hunsingore (four pairs), Malham Tarn, Moorhouse Lane Pond, North Cave, Northstead Manor (two broods), Nosterfield NR (seven broods), Potteric Carr (nine broods, 49 young), Pulfen Bog (two broods), Redcar Tarn, Rodley NR, Scaling Dam (five broods), Scargill Res, Smallways, Southfield Res (six broods), Staveley NR (three broods), Walton Hall, Went Ings (two broods), Winterset Res (three broods), Wykeham Lakes (three broods). In total, 28 pairs bred at six sites in the Leeds recording area, producing 140 young.

Flocks were also reported from many locations additional to the WeBS sites, with some of higher counts including 200 at Farnham GP and 42 at Redcar Tarn in January and 50 at both Bank Island and Welton Waters in February. In March, there were 178 at Lowther Lake and 78 at Peasholme Park, while at Beal Carrs the maximum count was 39 in April, and at Malham Tarn 110 in July. Castle Howard attracted 100 in October and a month later, there were 298 on Lowther Lake. The two largest counts related to 1500 at Hornsea Mere in October and 1415 at Swillington Ings in December; the latter a site record and the highest ever count for the Leeds recording area, which was associated with a cold snap.

Hybrids

There were several hybrid Tufted Ducks reported: a single at Gouthwaite Res on 3rd February resembled a Lesser Scaup and may have been the same bird at Tophill Low on 9th October. Another Tufted x Pochard drake was at North Cave Wetlands on 4th March. Elsewhere, a male Tufted x Red Crested Pochard was on Beal Carrs from 31st January to 11th April.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

The birds wintering in Britain of this circumpolar species mostly come from Iceland and Scandinavia east to Siberia, usually favouring marine habitats, but also occasional inland.

Seawatching in the first quarter produced a single with the Common Scoters off Saltburn on 5th January, a female was off Redcar Ore Terminal on 14th and six flew past Flamborough on 24th. In February, a male flew south past Filey on 17th and what may have been the same was then seen heading south past Spurn. There were no further records until 29th April when five were recorded heading past Flamborough and five flew past the Long Nab on 14th May. During the summer, only Spurn recorded any, with singles heading north on 6th June and south on 18th August. In the last four months of the year, a single headed north at Spurn on 18th September, followed by singles past Flamborough on 23rd and Spurn on 24th, while others took shelter in Filey Bay on 26th and in the mouth of the Humber on 30th. In October, one was off Redcar Ore Terminal on 7th, while one was with Common Scoter off Filey on 11th. In addition, up to three recorded off Spurn on five dates in October and six dates in November. The highest sea-watching total related to eight passing Flamborough on 11th December and the final record was on 18th, when six were on the Humber off Spurn.

Away from the coast, two immature males were at Southfield Res in January, two males were present at Swillington Ings until 25th March and a male was at Gouthwaite Res from 22nd January–12th May. Records also came from Filey Dams on 1st February, a male was at Fairburn Ings from 13th–15th February, a female at Southfield Res and a male at Anglers CP on 3rd March. In April, a female was at Winterset Res on 10th, it moved to Anglers CP on 12th, where it paired up to a Tufted Duck and remained until 26th. Elsewhere, a male was at Rother Valley CP from 28th April–5th May and an immature male was at Old Moor on 29th. In May, a female was at Wykeham Lakes and a male was at Skelton Lake over 26th/27th. The only summer records were males at Tophill Low 20th June, at Wykeham Lakes on 9th July and a female at Welton Waters on 26th June. There were just two August records: a female at Ringstone Edge from 2nd–6th and a pair on Scaling Dam on 7th. The only September sightings were at Hornsea Mere on 20th, at Watton NR on 21st, at Swillington Ings on 26th and two at Hornsea Mere on 30th.

Numbers increased in October, after two at Castle Howard from 2nd-8th. The next lingered at Hornsea Mere from the 5th to the month end, two were at Newburgh Priory on 9th and singles were at Lingham Water on 6th, Beacon Ponds on 14th, Wombwell Ings on 17th, at Beacon Ponds over 27th/28th and two were at Fairburn Ings on 25th. In November singles were at Scammonden on 4th, Marfield NR on 5th, Filey Dams on 6th, Beal Carrs from 8th-23rd, Anglers CP on 12th, a male at Tophill Low on 13th, two at Beacon Ponds on 17th and a female at Blacktoft on 25th. In December, singles were at Lingham Water on 1st, North Cave on 5th, with two birds here from 7th to 9th, Otley Wetlands from 9th to the end of the year and Welton Waters on 12th to the year end. After one at Watton NR on 15th, the latter half produced one at Castle Howard on 18th, two on Southfield Res on 21st, another duo at Winterset Res on 24th and singles at Sprotbrough Flash on 27th and Burton Riggs on 29th. December's highest counts came from Fairburn Ings where there were 19 on 23rd, with 12 remaining the next day.

Eider ●
Ray Scally

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* A

Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and visitor; rare inland

This marine species breeds at Coquet Island, Northumberland northwards, but some non-breeding birds summer on the coast, and others winter.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	6	6	1	1	21	39	38	39	25	2	1	2

Birds were present for most of the year off favoured coastal watch points, though numbers were relatively low; a maximum of 35 were off Flamborough during the first quarter, while a small moulting flock of up to 19 was present over the summer, with 12 similarly off Filey. Nearly all the larger counts were of birds on passage and included 17 off Filey on 24th January, 22 flew past Filey on 20th July, with 23 there on 23rd August. However, the greatest counts came in November: 88 flew past Flamborough on 14th and the following day 129 tracked past Flamborough and 51 were off Spurn. On 17th 38 flew past Spurn, 27 were off there the next day and 16 passed Filey on 23rd. Strong northerlies in mid-December pushed 193 past Flamborough on 11th, 30 passed Spurn on 15th, with 50 here the following day, when there were also 59 off Filey.

There were two inland reports; a male on Ingbirchworth Res on 26th March and a male paid a brief visit to Castle Howard on 17th December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* A

Scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and northern Norway; and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers. At the start of the year an immature took up residence off Filey Brigg, where was present until the end of February. Additional January records included one off Saltburn on 6th, two males north off Flamborough on 23rd, when one also headed past Filey. Up to three birds were then present off South Dykes, Flamborough until 24th March. The only other spring record was two off South Gare on 9th April. An unseasonal pair flew north past Filey on 9th June.

The first of the autumn was nine past Marine Drive on 26th September, followed by a female in Filey Bay on 19th October, where it remained until 4th November. The only other October record was a summer-plumaged male in Filey Bay on 25th/26th October. November proved to be the best month, with singles at Spurn on 6th and 7th, one off the Long Nab on 8th, a male north past Filey on 9th; next day four tracked north off the Brigg and a further three males were in Filey Bay, while one tracked north and two south at Spurn.

The three males in Filey Bay were present until 19th, with just two staying until 4th December. Three went past Flamborough on 12th, one north past Filey on 14th and singles flew past Long Nab on 18th and Spurn on 25th and 26th. Singles tracked past Flamborough on several days during November, but December's sole records were singles past Flamborough on 8th and Spurn on 28th.

The only inland record at the start of the year related to a pair at Scaling Dam; present since August 2006 they remained until 4th March, with a single lingering until 17th. There were no further records until June, with a drake at Farnham GP from 24th to 26th. Presumably, the same then re-appeared at Hay-a-Park GP from the 1st-6th July. In September, one was on Scalby Lodge Pond from 13th-21st, when it was unfortunately picked up dead. In November, singles were at Ainderby Steeple, Northallerton on 10th, Winterburn Res from 13th-16th, a female frequented a pond at Red House Farm, Leeds from 15th-22nd and Hornsea Mere hosted a single from 25th to the year end. The only other December record referred to a drake at Broomhead Res on Christmas Day.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* A

Red list and UK BAP species: a fairly common coastal visitor, scarcer inland

Mostly winters offshore, with birds also seen moving to and from the North Norfolk coast, where nearly 5000 wintered.

The largest raft at the start of the year involved 270 off Saltburn in January, with smaller numbers reported off other coastal watch points and at the mouth of the Humber. The only sizeable flocks in February were 180 off Redcar and at Flamborough, where numbers slowly increased from 160 on 4th to a maximum of 200 on 18th. Numbers soon ebbed, with 120 remaining by the end of February and 60 present in March and April, although there was an isolated peak of 276 on 5th May. Elsewhere, the highest counts off Filey were 16 in January, increasing to 42 by mid-March, before numbers declined.

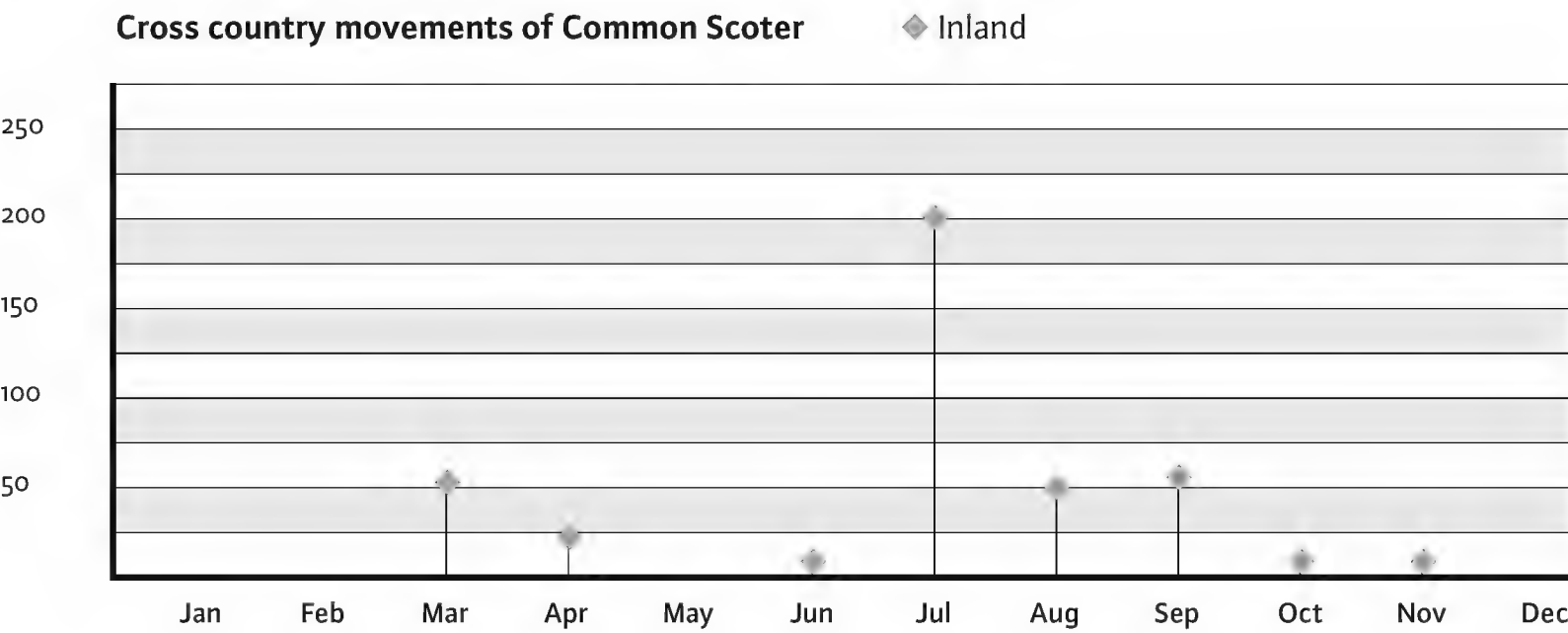
The first appreciable movements were noted off Filey in June, when 60 flew past on 9th and 110 were noted heading north on 23rd, but larger scale movement began in earnest in July. On 10th 229 headed past Flamborough and 180 were recorded off Filey. Other high counts included 208 passing Flamborough on 14th, 95 off Filey on 16th and 175 passing Flamborough on 22nd July. In August, 373 went past Kettleness on 6th, 104 flew past Flamborough on 19th, 90 tracked past Filey on 20th and 101 flew by Flamborough on 21st. September's main movement occurred on 27th: 207 flew past Scalby Mills, 410 were logged off Cowbar and 456 headed past Spurn, while next day 220 flew past Long Nab and Spurn logged 256. October's best related to 415 off Skinningrove on 13th. Northerly gales at the beginning of November produced some sizeable movements along the coast: 330 tracked past Flamborough and 300 flew past Spurn on 4th, 423 headed past Flamborough on 5th, with 580 off there the next day, when 357 also flew past Spurn. On 8th November 500 fed off Long Nab, while two days later there were 400 past Flamborough and 230 off Filey. Flamborough continued to record good numbers during November with 503 on 14th, 561 on 15th and 657 on 24th.

Away from the coast, a male at Tophill on 25th March was the year's first inland record. An appreciable movement occurred on inland waters on 29th March when there was an impressive 41 at Tophill, ten on North Cave, five on Southfield Res and single drakes at Doncaster Lakeside and Pugneys. On 30th, a female frequented Southfield Res and the following day another appeared on North Duffield Carrs, where it remained until 7th April. In April, apart from a pair at Thrybergh CP on 2nd, all other records were of singles, the vast majority of which were females. On 3rd lone individuals appeared at Winterset Res and Leeshaw Res (present until the 6th). On 5th singles pitched down on Hellifield Flash, Knotford Nook, Lingham Water and Staveley NR. A female was at Tophill Low on 6th, a male at Ulley CP on 7th and females were at North Cave NR and Wykeham Lakes on 8th. On 11th a female at Pulfin Bog was only the fourth reserve record, followed next day by singles at Eccup Res and Pugneys; one remained in residence at Swillington Ings from 15th-22nd, another appeared at Nosterfield on 23rd and the final spring record referred a drake at Ryburn Res on 25th.

There were three June records, all on 20th; males at Southfield Res and Winterset Res and a female at Worsbrough CP.

Post-breeding movements did not really begin until mid-July, when a single was on Gorple Res on 11th, six males were on Eccup Res on 14th, one appeared on Lower Barden Res on 16th, but best of all, an impressive 175 headed west over Little Preston on 17th. The next day a single was on Malham Tarn, two were on Winterset Res on 19th, followed by 50 west at Blacktoft on 21st and 30 on Ogden Res the following day. On 6th August, there were 38 on Green Withens Res, seven on Thornton Moor Res, four on White Holme Res and singles on Reva Res and Ringstone Edge Res. On 23rd four flew NE over Kirkbymoorside, with another 58 west over Kirkbymoorside on 4th September. Generally overland migration began to trail off in September, with just lone drakes at Winterset Res on 10th, Southfield Res on 27th, Thrybergh CP on 28th (present until 23rd October) and at Worsbrough CP on 29th. In October, singles were recorded at Thrybergh CP on 1st, Swillington Ings on 8th,

Castle Howard on 14th, Sand Hutton on 15th, Beal Carrs on 28th/29th. The final inland records were recorded in November, with six at Anglers CP on 3rd and a female at Doncaster Lakeside on 27th.



SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* **A** 1,1,0,0,1
Rare visitor: 19 previous records
Coinciding with the strong northerly winds responsible for the displacement of many seabirds, a female/immature flew south at Spurn on 6th November (AAH: AR). Only the fourth ever record for Spurn, this was the first in the county since a drake north there on 18th November 2004.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* **A**
Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland
This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a scarce winter visitor to the east coast. In common with other coastal passage birds, there may be some duplication in records.
On 1st January three birds headed north past Flamborough Head, when a single also flew north at Filey and the following day two birds were off Marske. Three stayed off Saltburn from 5th–8th January and the month’s final sighting constituted a single passing Flamborough on 27th. The only February record was five past Flamborough on 24th. In March two flew north at Spurn on 5th, one went south off Filey on 6th and a single tracked south at Spurn on 15th. There were no further records until May, when four flew north off Filey on 4th.
July typically witnessed an upsurge, with the first south past Filey on 15th. On 21st July singles were off Skinningrove and Kettleness and three went past Flamborough, with another four passing Flamborough on 31st. Sightings became more regular in the latter half of August, with four north at Filey on 20th, one flew north at Spurn on 22nd and the next day three were off Marine Drive and two were off Kettleness. Up to four recorded off several seawatching spots during September/October, but most activity focused on 29th September, when three were in Brunswick Bay, four off Filey and an additional 11 noted at Kettleness.
Numbers increased appreciably during the strong northerlies at the start of November; ten were off South Gare on 3rd, 13 off Flamborough and two off Whitton Sands the following day, then 12 were recorded off Spurn and three off Flamborough on 5th November. Small numbers continued to be recorded to the month end, with an isolated maximum of 18 at Flamborough on 14th November; 13 at the same location on 22nd December was easily the month’s best count.
Away from the coast, an immature male and two females were on Scar House Res on 4th April, constituting only the fourth record for the Harrogate area (KM).

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor, a few over-summer. BBS o/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 11500: GB threshold 249
The Humber Estuary is now the only nationally important wintering site within the region for a species that breeds from Scotland east to Siberia. Nationally, numbers have fallen since the mid-90’s, and Hornsea Mere’s peak was the lowest for some time and well below the five-year mean of 282 and the GB threshold figure.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Castle Howard	14	20	24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	20
Catcliffe Flash	26	32	30	13	–	–	–	–	–	3	8	9
Elland GP	7	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	7
Fairburn Ings	47	117	142	65	2	1	1	1	0	5	25	42
Farnham GP	24	13	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hay-a-Park GP	5	5	4	8	–	–	–	–	0	3	6	7
Hornsea Mere	190	208	120	20	18	4	0	0	1	0	56	–
North Humber	401	151	47	17	–	–	0	0	0	2	14	12
Old Moor	12	13	17	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	9

Away from WeBS sites, some of the larger counts during the first included 53 at Gouthwaite Res, 17 at Knotford Nook and 12 at Silsden Res in January, followed by 32 on Malham Tarn in February. Numbers on several waters increased in March with 54 on Flasks Lake, 31 north off South Gare on 23rd, 23 on Staveley NR, 20 at Wheldrake Ings and 12 at Lindley Wood Res. Most birds had departed by the end of April, though a few birds lingered through the summer, including: an injured female at Staveley, a male at Otley Wetlands until 10th June, an immature male at Scaling Dam and a single at Pulfin Bog.
Autumn passage started with singles off Flamborough and Spurn on 27th September. However, numbers only increased substantially during the strong northerlies of early November; 57 flew north off Long Nab, 18 were off Flamborough, 26 logged at Filey (seven north, 19 in the Bay) and 19 tracked north at Spurn on 4th November, with 12 north and 21 on the sea south of Burniston the following day. Numbers on inland waters were relatively low in November/December, although included 27 at both Bellflask Quarry and Gouthwaite Res in the former month.
SMEW *Mergellus albellus* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 4
Counts in 2006/07 were 50% lower than the previous winter.
The first appeared on 14th January, with a drake on Pulfin Bog and an immature drake at Winterset, the latter present until 5th April. Elsewhere, a drake frequented Fairburn from 25th January to at least the beginning of March, and a redhead was on the Southern Washlands NR from 27th January to 27th February. However, most activity centred on the Tophill/Watton NR complex with regular sightings, including five present between 18th February and 3rd March (three drakes, two redheads). In early March, two drakes and two redheads were at North Duffield Carrs and Welton Waters hosted a single on 8th.
The first returning birds were redheads at Beal Carrs and Swillington Ings on 11th November; the latter present until 2nd December. A male returned to Watton NR on 17th November and was joined by an additional male on 23rd December, with both staying into the New Year. A male arrived at Fairburn Ings on 2nd December remained until 24th. Other December records included an immature male at Swillington Ings from 7th–12th, a male at Coatham Marsh on 15th, a redhead at Wykeham Lakes from 17th to the year end and a redhead at Scalby Lodge Pond from 20th–28th and finally, a male at Pugneys CP on 23rd.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor
Nationally has declined since the mid-1990s.
Most coastal records referred to birds moving offshore, although three sheltered in Filey Bay on 16th November. The main autumn passage occurred between October and mid-November, with up to two almost

Monthly Maxima

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Scarborough	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	3	1
Flamborough	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	6	3	4	2

daily from several watchpoints. Thirty headed south and five more north between 15th September and 15th November at Spurn, while a total of 15 were spread over nine dates at Flamborough in November.

There were several inland records, starting with a male at Bellflask Quarry from the New Year until 5th January. In spring, a male was on Southfield Res on 29th March, followed by a female on Eccup Res on 2nd April and two females at Beal Carrs for just an hour on 20th April. Five were on Hornsea Mere on 27th May, while the sole summer record referred to a redhead flying west over Southfield Res on 3rd July. In September, an eclipse male accompanied by a female were on Ogden Res from 27th–29th, while there were three records in October: a female at Eccup Res on 1st, a redhead on Cortonwood Lake from 10th–12th and a pair on Fairburn Ings on 31st.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* A

Uncommon to scarce breeder; uncommon migrant and winter visitor. BBS 5/222

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 161

Breeds on fast-flowing rivers mostly in the west of the county, with numbers swollen in winter. Since colonizing the UK in 1871, males still fly to Tana Fjord, North Norway to moult during September, and this may account for some coastal sightings. Colonisation of England is continuing, and the regional population probably increasing, although winter numbers have decreased since mid 1990s.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	5	9	17	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	11
Catcliffe Flash	26	32	30	13	–	–	–	–	–	3	8	9
East Park (Hull)	27	29	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	14
Eccup Res	41	41	11	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	70	51
Elland GP	29	31	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	18
Fairburn Ings	32	32	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	9	26	26
Hay-a-Park	6	6	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	5	11
Old Moor	49	58	28	29	0	0	0	1	4	4	30	45

Some of January’s higher counts included: 33 at Bretton Lakes on 1st, 29 on Elland GP on 2nd, 31 on the river at Tadcaster, 20 at Chellow Dene on 11th, up to 20 fishing at the Weir at Boroughbridge, up to 18 at Wibsey Park, Bradford and 32 at Fairburn Ings on 31st. In February there were up to six at Harthill Res, six at Smallways, 13 at Castle Howard and six at North Cave. March produced up to 17 at Gorpley Clough, 16 at Dean Head Res, ten at Fountains Abbey on 7th and eight at Deepdale and nine at Beighton on 14th.

Successful breeding took place on several rivers, mainly in the west. Most reports came along the Wharfe, where family parties noted between Barden and Bolton Abbey, around Ilkley, at Otley Wetlands and between Gallow’s Hill and Knotford Nook (a brood of 15 and a brood of two); breeding also took place at Lindley Wood Res. Birds were present all year along the Aire between Kildwick and Carleton and bred successfully near Cononley where broods of seven and two ducklings observed. At least 18 pairs produced 130 young in the Bradford recording area. Additional breeding records included a female with two young on the river Rye at Ryton Bridge, a female with a brood of 14 on the Nidd at Knaresborough and a female with three young on the Ure at Hawes. A female accompanied eight young on the river beside Bellflask Quarry and at least one newly hatched duckling noted on the river Leven in July.

Some of the highest counts during the final half included: 73 at Thornton Moor Res in October; 23 at Stourton in November; a maximum of 22 at Harthill Res, 20 at Boroughbridge, 11 at Lee Dam, 13 at Castle Howard, nine at Bradley Hall Farm, seven at Broomhill Res and six at Ripon Loops in December.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* C

Scarce feral breeder since 1980; uncommon visitor from 1968. BBS 0/222

Due to control measures, a 45% national fall reduced numbers over the 2006/07 winter to those of the late 1980s, and this decrease was also evident in the county.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	19	25	8	3	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
Catcliffe Flash	–	2	2	3	6	4	1	3	6	4	–	–
Edderthorpe Flash	1	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	78	40	–	2
Fairburn Ings	8	30	14	19	2	–	5	–	–	–	4	–
Hay-a-Park GP	20	19	13	3	–	1	–	–	4	2	5	5
Hornsea Mere	74	23	11	9	8	6	8	12	14	9	31	–
North Humber	0	1	6	11	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Old Moor	12	18	23	20	9	36	14	17	12	16	19	14
Potteric Carr	–	–	4	7	8	5	5	–	–	–	–	–
Pugneys CP	25	7	9	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Rother Valley CP	35	48	37	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	35	35
South Tees	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swillington Ings	10	8	23	–	2	–	–	6	–	8	–	47
Thrybergh CP	1	1	–	4	2	2	3	13	11	9	4	2
Tophill Low	62	18	6	3	3	7	5	5	10	20	35	–
Winterset Res	1	0	1	0	0	0	–	–	–	35	–	–

The Defra cull continued this year, with a number of sites again reporting shooting parties. For this reason some sites withheld data. Despite some of the high counts in the above table, most reports consisted of no more than three. Spring provided the most records and included birds returning to traditional breeding sites.

Small numbers were reported from many locations, such as Beal Carrs, Broomhill Flash, Castle Howard, Farnham GP, Filey Dams, Harewood Park, Harthill Res, Nosterfield NR, Rodley NR, Scaling Dam, Smallways, Southfield Res and Thorne Moors. Some of the more unusual reports included singles at Pulfin Bog on 1st January, at Fountains Abbey on 11th February, at Langsett Res on 11th April and Yeadon Tarn on 22nd December.

Some of the larger counts included 14 on Potteric Carr and 15 at Broomhill Flash in April. Elsewhere, up to eight were at North Cave in spring, six at Filey Dams, four on Thorne Moors and 11 at Rodley NR.

During the summer, breeding was reported from Blacktoft (seven pairs), Fairburn Ings (one pair), Flasks Lake (a brood of five), Swillington Ings (eight broods), Leventhorpe Hall (one brood), Old Moor and at Broomhill Flash (four broods).

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica* A

Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident breeder of upland moors. BBS 39/222

Yorkshire is an English stronghold of this subspecies of the European Willow Ptarmigan. It breeds exclusively on heather moorland, where the population is managed. A long-term population decline due to loss of heather moorland, viral disease and predation from corvids and foxes has prompted the move of this species to the Amber list.

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust reported a successful breeding season in northern England, which is reflected in the majority of reports received. It was reported to be numerous in areas of suitable habitat in the north of the county and also to be increasing on Fylingdales Moor. Counts in the Harrogate area included 56 on Dallowgill in late July, 40 in Colsterdale on 5th August, 51 on Agra Moor on 17th November and 69 on Pott Moor on 24th November. Elsewhere in the Dales reasonable numbers were reported from the Barden area, but numbers were reported to be down on Denton Moor. Breeding was widely reported on moorlands in the Halifax area, where flocks of up to 20 were recorded at a number of sites. The upland areas around Barnsley/Sheffield remain a favoured location, with a notable count of 450 at Midhope/Barnside on 17th October that were flushed by a Hen Harrier quartering the moor.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare to scarce resident breeder. BBS 2/222
This species continues to increase in the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Area and has benefited from habitat improvements.

Comprehensive survey work coordinated by the North Pennines Black Grouse Recovery Project located a minimum of 172 lekking males in the spring. This included a total of 144 lekking males in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, a threefold increase on the 51 males located in 2000, with records from 11 separate 5km squares during the year. The core areas are still the northern Dales of Arkengarthdale, Wensleydale and Swaledale, where 92% of the lekking males were located. Unfortunately, poor weather during the peak hatching period in early June resulted in the worst breeding season across much of northern England since 1996, with only 0.33 chicks fledged per hen.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* **C**
Common resident. BBS 64/222: +74% (+43) 1994–2007, +17% (+3) 2006–07
Based on BBS data, numbers seem to be increasing in most areas of the county, although to what extent the population is dependent on releases for shooting is not clear; the numbers of which have more than doubled since 1990.

Without continued releases in the north of the county, it is debatable whether or not the population is self sustaining. In the Dales, the dramatic increase in the number of released birds continues, with birds now present in many upland areas where formerly absent. In the Bradford area there was evidence that birds are dispersing widely from some release sites, whilst in the Leeds area there was only one breeding record and a notable decrease of records from the east. It was reported as scarce in the Winterset area, with only two breeding pairs recorded and decreasing in the Kelk and Filey areas, with a dramatic decline also noted at Pulfin Bog since introductions for shooting stopped. In the New Earswick area this species was reported to be hybridising with introductions of Chukar *A. chukar* and Rock Partridge *A. graeca*.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* **AC**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident. BBS 44/222
The national picture is one of rapid decline, probably due to agricultural intensification, but also overshooting in areas where Red-legged Partridges are released. There is insufficient evidence to determine population changes, particularly from the arable strongholds in East and North Yorkshire, where releases can temporarily boost the population.

In the north there were widespread reports of small numbers. There were also records from at least 11 sites in Upper Wharfedale, but casual observations suggest a decline in many areas of the Dales and there were no records from around Malham Tarn. On the edge of the Dales, there was only one record from the Cononley area, where the species was formerly a regular breeder and there was a decrease in records from Bradford, with reports from only 18 locations and only two sites where breeding was confirmed. Peak counts from the latter included 12 at Soil Hill in January and 15 near Doe Park Reservoir in August. There were records from 16 sites around Halifax and widespread reports in the Harrogate area, with peak counts of 14 in Burton Leonard, 15 at Great Ouseburn and 11 at Nosterfield in October, but these counts may include birds released by at least one shooting syndicate. Up to 16 were present throughout at Fairburn, with at least one breeding pair and there were records from a minimum of two sites around Leeds, with a maximum of 20 at both Swillington Ings in February and near Skelton Lake in October. Breeding proved at Broomhill; there were 65 records from 15 localities in the Worsbrough area, with a maximum of 17 on 13th September; the 24 pairs located in the Winterset area were a record local total; and up to eight birds were at Pugneys CP intermittently during the year. Several pairs bred at Beal Carrs and birds were regular in the Kelk area, where at least three pairs were present. There were two pairs at Buckton, a minimum of three pairs present in the Filey area, no change in status at Flamborough and good numbers were present in the Scarborough area. A slight decrease was reported at Potteric Carr, where only two pairs were recorded. This species was widespread in the Sheffield area, there were up to three pairs around Southfield Res and several pairs bred at Thorne Moors. Notable counts outside the breeding season included 26 at Bolton Ings in September, with 19 at Winterset and 24 at Ulrome in late December.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* **A**
Amber list: scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant
The first were two calling at Thorne Moors on 3rd May, followed by another heard at Flamborough two days later and one at Denby Common on 19th May. In June one was flushed at Flamborough on 7th June and calling

birds were at: North Ashton Tip, Rotherham on 5th; Nosterfield NR on 8th/9th; near Redmires Res on 10th; at Flamborough the next day, with two there on 15th. Other June records came from: Spurn on 16th; Ruston Parva on 16th/17th; Eastfield Lane, Rotherham on 18th; four at West Lilling on 23rd and finally, one at Eccup Res on 29th. Singles were at Helperthorpe on 30th June and again on 22nd and 28th July. Other July records came from Silkstone on 1st, Kelk on 8th, Kirby Hall on 15th and near Roche Abbey on 27th July. However, the Lower Derwent NNR continues to be the county's best location, with ten calling males during the summer. The last record related to a single at Cudworth Common on 27th August.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* **C**
Common to abundant resident
BBS 171/222: +79% (+40) 1994–2007, -4% (+2) 2006–07
This is one of the most widespread species, with particularly large populations in North Yorkshire, where many are released for shooting.

Huge numbers of birds are released by shooting syndicates and estates across the county and this is reflected in the widespread records from both upland and lowland areas. In several areas a slight increase in breeding birds was noted.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* **A**
Amber list: fairly common coastal migrant and winter visitor; rare inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 300: GB threshold 170
This circumpolar species breeds in decreasing numbers in Europe, in northern Scandinavia and north-west Scotland, and many winter in the southern North Sea. Aerial surveys from Flamborough Head to Dover in Kent estimated 3300 to be present during February/March, and although this was below the 7998 counted in 2005/06, coverage was less extensive.

The UK breeding population has risen by about 25% in the twelve years to 2006. However, this has been mainly due to increases in western Scotland as the Shetland population has declined by about 40%. The key wintering area remains south of Flamborough, along the Holderness coast. There were 45 on the sea off Atwick on 28th January, whilst a coordinated count of 325 between Atwick and Barmston on 21st February indicated the numbers present offshore; this included 62 at Atwick, 13 off Skipsera and 250 north of Ulrome. During the second half, a similar survey produced 147 between Atwick and Barmston on 4th November.

Monthly maxima from the four main coastal watchpoints were as follows:

Site & Date												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey	6	42	16	<10	<10	1	2	–	68	–	28	14
Flamborough	41	80	35	12	11	2	2	16	55	55	–	62
Scarborough	<10	<10	<10	–	–	1	2	–	55	–	<10	15

The most significant movements came during the latter part of the year and included: 55 passing Scarborough on 11th September; 68 south at Filey on 27th September; 74 passing Spurn on 31st December.

An adult and a first-winter arrived on Eccup Reservoir on 2nd January; both remained until 11th with the first-winter bird lingering until 15th February. One was on Lingham Lake, Harrogate from 6th–28th April and a single was on the Humber at Faxfleet on 20th May. One remained on Hornsea Mere from 26th November to 12th December and one frequented Tophill Low's 'D' Res from 13th–19th November. Finally, a single at Thrybergh CP, Rotherham on 12th December left to the north-west.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland
Small numbers breed in Scotland, but most of Yorkshire's records are of birds from Scandinavia and northern Russia. Like the previous species, its UK population is increasing in contrast to a decline elsewhere in Europe, with a 34% increase in Scotland in the 12 years to 2006; this increase has largely been attributed to the placement of artificial breeding islands on Scottish lochs. There were comparatively good numbers recorded from our coasts during the year, particularly during November.

One lingered off Saltburn from New Year’s Day until 12th January, with a single off South Gare on 10th January and again there on 1st February. Two were off Flamborough on 4th January, followed by another duo on 17th. Flamborough also recorded singles on 18th February and 17th March. Scarborough’s South Bay hosted a single on 16th March and at the month end a summer–plumaged adult flew past Filey on 31st. Flamborough logged lone individuals on single dates in both April and May. One in partial summer–plumage drifted past the Narrows at Spurn on 7th May and presumably the same flew south past the sea–watching hut the next day. An unusual summer record related to one in full breeding plumage off Flamborough on 13th June.

Autumn records are summarised in the table and started with singles off Flamborough on 28th and 30th August. However, activity mainly focused in the middle of November and coincided with strong northerly winds, responsible for displacing several ‘northern’ seabirds. While most were inevitably recorded off Flamborough, the main coastal watchpoints all recorded more than usual. Three passed Flamborough on 12th and 13th November, four were logged on 15th, before an impressive seven on 16th. Spurn’s best were three on 12th November and two the following day.

Monthly totals from coastal sites:

Site & Date												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Flamborough	4	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	6	1	23	8
Scarborough	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0

Two first–winters lingered around the harbour at Scarborough on 14th November, one of these remaining until the end of the year when it was taken into care on 31st December, after colliding with a lamp post!

There were just two inland records: an individual seen briefly on Hornsea Mere on 11th October (WFC) and a first–winter took up temporary residence at Wykeham Lakes from 1st–21st December (NWA *et al.*).

PACIFIC DIVER *Gavia pacifica* A0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; first record for Britain

It breeds in northern parts of North America and along a narrow coastal strip of northeast Siberia and winters from Alaska south to Mexico and off Japan south to eastern China.

A juvenile was located on the south lake at Farnham GP on 12th January (JEA: JRM *et al.*); although it was initially assumed to be a Black–throated Diver, several features were not compatible with that species, especially the lack of a flank patch. The true identification of this first for the Western Palearctic was established the following day. Thereafter, it remained until the morning of 4th February, when it flew off north–west and attracted a large audience during the later week of its stay. For a detailed account see page 162.



Pacific Diver ◉
Ray Scally

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* A

Amber list: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species.

During the early part of the year there were larger than usual numbers off the coast from Flamborough northwards. Up to three were regular off the Reccar–Saltburn coastline during the first three weeks of the year, with an exceptional 15 present on 6th January. Numbers then dropped, although low single–figures still featured until the end of February, with a best of four off Saltburn on 17th February. A single in Scarborough Harbour on 9th January was followed by a long–stayer off Scarborough from 31st January–24th March. Six remained in residence in Filey Bay from 2006, with five off Flamborough on 27th January with wintering numbers gradually ebbing; as illustrated by the last departing Filey on 22nd April.

There was a small spring passage starting with one flying past South Gare on 29th April. In May singles tracked north at Spurn on 5th, 12th and 15th, one was off South Gare and Filey on 13th and finally, singles passed Long Nab on 28th and Ulrome on 29th May.

Autumn passage past the main sites is summarised in the table; it started with two early birds off Scarborough on 22nd and 29th August and one off Flamborough on 28th August. September was also quiet, with a total of just eight passing the main watchpoints. However, strong northerlies at the end September displaced small numbers further south than normal and three were logged tracking back north off South Gare from 27th–29th and another did similarly off Kettleness on 29th. Numbers remained low during October, with the exception of four passing Kettleness on 14th.

November proved to be easily the best month and large numbers were pushed further south than normal due to gale force northerly winds. On 6th several sites recorded single figures, with bests of five flying past Flamborough and three south at Spurn. By far the heaviest passage occurred on 10th/11th which coincided with the strongest winds. On 10th ten flew north at both Filey and Flamborough, which constituted a record day total for the latter site; elsewhere, one flew past Scarborough and three tracked north and one headed south at Spurn. The movement continued on 11th with: five north and four south at Filey; five passed Flamborough; seven went north and one south at Ness Point, Robin Hood’s Bay; and finally, two went north at Spurn. Five flew past Long Nab on 12th, when three also headed north at Filey and one went east at Spurn. The following day two flew north and one south at Spurn and the influx ended with four past Flamborough on 15th. Singles were then noted passing coastal headlands on odd dates into December, whilst one remained offshore at Scarborough on 28th, when another took up temporary residence in Filey Bay until 12th December. Two at Spurn on 9th December was the best for the month and the year’s last passed there on 30th December.

Monthly totals from coastal sites:

Site & Date												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey	6	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	31	2
Flamborough	5+	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	39	0
Scarborough	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	10	0

Inland there were just two records; an adult was discovered on Ringstone Edge Reservoir on 21st September, where it stayed for the day (SG *et al.*). A juvenile then arrived on the ‘O’ Res at Tophill Low on 2nd December and remained until 28th.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii* A2,0,0,0,1

Rare winter visitor: 26 previous records

Breeds from western Siberia east to Canada, wintering coastally, with small numbers reaching northwest Europe.

First noted as it rested on the sea, a moulting adult then flew north at Flamborough at 1305hrs on 10th November, a day when large numbers of Great Northern were also reorientating back north (RH: AMa: BR). Amazingly, this was the fifth diver species recorded in Yorkshire during the course of the year and the first White–billed since two singles around Scarborough in February 2003; the first was picked up moribund, whilst the second at Cloughton Wyke, only remained long enough for local birders to catch up with it.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 78
Breeds on small, shallow fresh waters, and is easily overlooked unless riverine surveys are conducted. Wintering numbers show a slight increase and numbers on or adjacent to the Humber estuary surpassed the WeBS threshold of 78 for the first time, although this figure includes the south bank.

There were no significant counts during the early part of the year, with eleven being the maximum at any one site. At Potteric Carr, where the breeding population has doubled since 2005, early nests were lost through summer flooding. However, later nesting attempts were more successful; in September 26 young from six pairs were present on Huxter Well alone. Although many sites suffered summer flooding and therefore the loss of early nests, significant breeding populations included nine pairs at Pugney’s; 16 pairs at Blacktoft; nine broods at Broomhill Flash; six broods at Filey Dams. The Rotherham area held 25 pairs and 14 broods recorded in the Leeds area.

A pair at Elland Gravel Pits abandoned their nest when a pair of opportunistic Moorhens built on it. In the north of the county, one was picked up on a road near Nunthorpe on 26th March, taken into care and nursed back to full health, being released at Coatham Marsh on 12th April. Unusually one flew north off Flamborough on 24th March, only the third such in the last 30 years.

The table gives monthly maxima from several sites; the largest single site count related to the 76 at Old Moor on 16th September.

Site & Date												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	2	10	14	13	9	–	17	14	16	11	6	–
North Cave	6	10	6	c10	c10	c10	c10	c10+	c10+	28	15	17
Old Moor	2	8	26	50	14	40	25	40	76	39	20	15

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* **A**
Uncommon to scarce resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3600: GB threshold 159
A widespread species in Europe found on larger lowland lakes, reservoirs, meres and gravel pits. The breeding and wintering population is probably increasing; numbers winter on the coast, with nationally important counts along Holderness, south of Flamborough.

The largest count during the first winter period related to 178 between Atwick and Barmston on 17th January. A tally of 42 on the sea off Danes Dyke South on 29th January further illustrates the importance of the coast south of Flamborough. Other good January counts included 40 at Southfield Res on 3rd; 24 in Filey Bay on 21st and 35 at Winterset on 21st January. In addition, other maxima included 32 at Swillington Ings and 21 at Eccup.

The largest spring count was 50 at Fairburn on 24th April.
Breeding was adversely affected by heavy rain and flooding during the summer. Five pairs at Otley Wetland, produced nine young, but none bred in the Halifax area. Only four pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, compared to 13 pairs in 2006. Around Leeds 14 pairs bred at seven sites, although only 20 young were raised. At Potteric Carr, three small young were found at Low Ellers on 20th August, whilst two pairs nested on Huxter’s Well for the first time and raised two young. Six pairs bred at Pugney’s CP and an estimated 25 pairs bred around Rotherham.
At Malham, none appeared to be attempting to breed until two small young noted on 11th August. Three pairs attempted to nest at North Cave, but only one pair was successful, raising two young. None bred in the Scarborough area, despite two pairs being present early in the season. Seven nests found at Southfield Res, of which six had eggs and five pairs went on to raise nine young and four pairs bred at Blacktoft. At Winterset, eight pairs nested producing five broods with six young fledging. At Worsborough, four pairs nested but flooding and high water levels led to just one young bird fledging.

A significant influx took place at Winterset in mid–September with 113 recorded on 15th September, a local record. During the last months, numbers again built off the Holderness coast, with 49 off Ulrome on 31st October.

Site & Date												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flamborough	42	28	9	1	0	0	0	6	2	0	3	1
Old Moor	13	22	24	26	4	16	16	18	15	14	14	10
Pugney’s CP	15	18	22	20	20	20	17	15	15	17	17	38
Pulfin Bog	–	–	–	10	9	7	–	11	14	15	7	–
Southfield	40	33	17	31	34	22	20	23	6	15	6	8
Winterset	35	15	14	18	10	8	27	74	113	77	39	19

RED–NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* **A** 34,24,57,30,32
Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor
Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west. Numbers in winter 2006/07 were the lowest ever recorded on WeBS counts.

During January/February three wintered off Danes Dyke South, Flamborough, with singles present on 3rd and 24th March. At Filey a single flew south on 6th January, followed by another in the Bay on 26th/27th January. Further north a single lingered off Saltburn from 6th–14th January. The only other in the first period flew north at Spurn on 4th March.

Flamborough recorded an early returning bird on 19th July, but a gap then ensued until mid–August. A summer–plumaged adult flew south at Filey on 15th, one was off Cowbar on 21st, one tracked past Flamborough on 24th and another summer–plumaged adult sheltered in Filey Bay the following day.

During September there were five bird/days from Flamborough, singles at Spurn on 4th and 11th and one south at Filey on 25th. October’s sole representative moved west at Kettleness on 14th. Flamborough logged four bird/days during November and singles were at South Gare on 4th, north at Scarborough and off Grimston on 11th and north at Spurn on 13th. A single sitting on the sea adjacent to the seawatch hide at Spurn on 3rd December constituted the month’s only record.

Inland records included: a single near Woodmansey on 30th/31st March, which relocated to a small fishing pond at Weel, where it remained from 8th April–27th May (MS *et al.*); the returning summering adult on Hatfield Moors from 22nd April and, finally, sporadic sightings of an elusive juvenile on Hornsea Mere from 26th August–31st October (EJH: RL *et al.*).

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* **A** 15,13,7,23,19
Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn
A small population of the larger–billed form breeds in Scotland, but it is the smaller–billed eastern population, breeding from Sweden eastwards, which winters in the county.

Like the previous species, the sea off Danes Dyke South hosted several early on, with two on 25th January, three on 27th/28th, two on 29th and one on 31st January followed by two on 3rd and one on 4th February (RBa: PC *et al.*). Elsewhere, one at Filey on 6th January was considered to have lingered from late 2006, up to two were between Redcar and Saltburn from 6th–8th January and Hornsea Mere sheltered another on 23rd/24th January (EJH: RL).

A gap followed until a moulting adult settled in front of the seawatching hide at Spurn on 20th August (JAB: AAH: IS), followed by a juvenile at Swillington on 2nd/3rd September (MB). There were sporadic sightings of an adult at Hornsea from 13th September to 12th November, with a juvenile also present from 16th–21st September (RL *et al.*). The next appeared at Fairburn Ings on 27th September. The next day a winter–plumaged adult arrived at Angler’s CP and was then joined by a first–winter from 1st October; both remained until they departed overnight on 17th October (PM *et al.*). Two were on the sea off Barmston on 6th October (RL: PLS) and the waters close inshore off Filey Brigg hosted the next from 19th–29th October (MBu: HO *et al.*). There were two singles in November; off South Landing, Flamborough on 12th (C & PT *et al.*) and another at Yeadon Tarn on 18th November (NAJ). The year’s last added to the enjoyment of visitors watching the Desert Wheatear at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 16th December.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds sporadically in the county, with a distribution, stretching from Spain eastwards.

Birds were present at a potential breeding site from 1st January and numbers increased until three pairs were present. However, low water levels led to all leaving the site by early May. Blackmoorfoot Res held a single from 2nd January until 3rd March, when it was unfortunately picked up dead. It was initially found by a member of the public at the side of a road adjacent to the reservoir following gale force winds and then released on the water. After its death investigation revealed recent blood clotting on the base of the neck and shoulders, most probably resulting from the unwanted attentions of a territorial Great Crested Grebe.

There were no further records until the usual April influx, with a single at Lakeside, Doncaster from 1st–3rd and another at Ingbirchworth Res on 2nd–3rd. Two dropped in at Tophill Low on 7th April, followed by another duo at Swillington Ings on 15th. A single at Old Moor on 23rd April, moved to Broomhill Flash the next day, where it remained until 26th April. Two in breeding plumage were present at Fairburn Ings on 10th May and a lone individual remained at Blacktoft from 20th–22nd May, with another one day bird on Hornsea Mere on 20th May.

Three pairs bred, each at different sites. At one location the first adult appeared on 4th April and a well-grown juvenile was noted subsequently and then remained until 22nd July. A pair arrived at another site on 6th April, with four adults present in May and an adult carrying a juvenile on 11th June; however, there were no further sightings of young and the last adult left on 17th July. At the third site, a pair successfully fledged two young.

Autumn’s first two records were unusually on the sea, off Marske Stray on 17th July and an adult off Filey on 20th. In August a juvenile lingered at Winterset from 22nd–25th August and perhaps the same relocated to Edderthorpe Flash on 26th–27th, before returning to Winterset the following day where it stayed until 2nd September. In the north of the county a juvenile was at Scaling Dam on 31st August and another appeared at Nosterfield on 15th September and then remained until 19th October. A juvenile remained at Angler’s CP from 20th–22nd September and the same site hosted a first–winter on 28th October.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* **A**

Amber list: fairly common breeder; common offshore; occasional inland. BBS o/222

The breeding population in the north of the county continues to increase with 150 pairs between Cowbar and Skinningrove and 130 between Hunt Cliff and Skinningrove. However, no breeding pairs reported from Roseberry Topping this year, despite up to seven commuting from the coast to there on several dates.

Strong northerlies in the third week in January induced the first significant movement, with 552/hour tracking back north past Filey on 22nd January, 1080 off Flamborough on 27th January and 1037 flying past there on 4th February. Otherwise, numbers remained relatively low, until 150 off Filey on 10th February gave the first indication of a movement back to coastal ledges. The only significant counts during the breeding season came from Flamborough, with 1145 on 28th May and 1302 on 10th June. Flamborough didn’t record any significant movements in the second half, with a maximum of 340; as per usual, October proved to be the quietest month with just a single noted off the headland. Further south, Spurn’s largest movement came on 11th September when 695 flew north.

Blue Fulmars recorded in most months, although they tended to be scarcer in the final quarter. January proved to be easily the best, with the highest numbers coinciding with the strong northerly winds in the final week. Five were off Flamborough on 20th; an impressive 16 were logged there the following day, followed by another five on 23rd. Several tracked north past Filey at the same time, with a maximum of three on 22nd.

There were three inland records; the first tracked over Wheldrake Ings on 18th March, the next overflew the A1 at Leeming Bar on 28th May, to be followed a few weeks later by another west at Blacktoft on 15th June.

CORY’S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* **A**

7,2,6,2,1

Rare late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from the Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa. Post–breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

A single flew north close inshore past Flamborough on 5th September (PC *et al.*).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* **A**

0,1,7,0,74

Rare coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn, from South Atlantic

Breeds at three sites in the South Atlantic, and as a transequatorial migrant moves clockwise around the North Atlantic, reaching Yorkshire waters from July to October.

It was an incredible year, which smashed county records; no fewer than 49 were logged north off Flamborough alone. The first tracked past Flamborough on 29th August, with the next off Long Nab at 0610hrs

the following day (NWA). On 3rd September, one flew north at Spurn at 1847 hrs (MJP: IS *et al.*), where there had only ever been three previous records. A lull ensued, before one tracked north at Hornsea (WFC) and three flew past Flamborough on 9th September. The following day witnessed six more north past Flamborough, two off Mappleton (WFC) and two singles also flew south off Spurn; one at 0620 hrs (GED) and the other at 1440 hrs (AAH), while a single flew north at Long Nab at 1738hrs (NWA: DBy: SH). However, Flamborough claimed the Yorkshire record on 11th September with an amazing 33 north during the course of the day (PAL *et al.*). Elsewhere on 11th there were: three singles north at Long Nab at 0640 hrs, 0745 hrs (seen earlier off Marine Drive at 0728hrs (SW)), and 1740 hrs (NWA: DBy: SH); one flew north at Barmston at 1430hrs (EWC: EJH: RL); nine north at Mappleton (WFC) and two flew north at Spurn (AR: AAH). On 15th September, two singles flew north at Spurn (KC: GED: RJS *et al.*) with two also off Flamborough the same day and another passed the headland there on 18th. Finally, strong northerlies prompted another three to pass Flamborough on 27th September.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon summer/autumn coastal passage migrant; rare in spring/winter

A migrant from the southern hemisphere, has been declining globally in numbers in recent years.

Although numbers weren’t spectacular, several coastal headlands reported it was the best showing since 2002, with 630 bird/days at Filey and 1438 bird/days at Spurn. An unusual mid–winter record related to a single north off Flamborough on 24th January. There then followed a spring duo north at Atwick on 28th May, while the first of ‘autumn’ was a single at the same site on 20th July, followed by three off Marine Drive the following day. Although nine tracked past Flamborough on 29th July, it wasn’t until mid–August that numbers started to pick up.

Flamborough recorded the following August totals: 61 on 21st, 78 on 22nd (50 north off Filey), 50 on 26th, 61 on 27th, 121 on 28th (52 tracked past Long Nab in two hours), 103 on 29th and 168 on 31st. However, most activity occurred during September, which featured prolonged periods of northerly winds, ideally suited to pushing this species into the North Sea. At Flamborough the highlights were as follows: 201 on 3rd, 329 on 4th, 245 on 9th, 210 on 10th, 587 on 11th (95 at Long Nab, 211 off Spurn), 288 on 15th, 479 on 18th (120 off Long Nab, 227 at Spurn) and 345 on 26th. However, the largest tally on 26th September came from Spurn, where 367 were logged heading north, which constituted the second highest–ever total for the site. Very few were recorded during October, although records increased in November, with a maximum of 21 off Flamborough on 4th. A particularly late individual flew north close inshore off Spurn on 29th December.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal passage migrant, mainly summer/autumn

Breeds around the temperate North Atlantic, including western Britain and Ireland, with the majority of our birds transequatorial migrants wintering off the coast of South America, mostly Brazil, but some remain in the Bay of Biscay.

The first flew north at Filey on 2nd April, with the month’s maximum of 12 passing Flamborough on 29th. May started slowly, but ended with record spring counts at Filey and Spurn. During strong NNE winds and driving rain on 27th, 889 flew south at Filey in five hours of intermittent coverage as follows: 161 between 0800–1100hrs; 335 south from 1500–1535hrs; 393 south between 1635–1900hrs. This same movement was also reflected at Spurn where 459 flew south. Birds were obviously reorientating back north on 28th, with 1056 north at Flamborough, 810 similarly at Atwick and 115 north at Long Nab, although strangely the 621 off Spurn flew south. June remained quiet until 313 passed Flamborough on 30th and counts then remained relatively low, until a northerly pushed 416 south at Filey on 19th August. The sole treble–figure count in September was 127 at Flamborough on 18th, while the odd single appeared offshore in October and the last single was recorded off Flamborough on 14th November.

One drifted past Brough Haven on 7th June (EJH).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* **A**

73,15,45,48,67

UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in declining numbers in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post–breeding dispersal takes place. Currently a regular visitor to British waters, with around 1,000 individuals reported annually.

Flamborough recorded the first on 10th June, with the next on 20th and 25th July. The same locality recorded the species on ten dates during August, with a maximum of three on 21st. Elsewhere, there was an ‘at sea’ sighting of one accompanying a small party of Manx Shearwaters ten miles off Scarborough on 11th August and Filey logged its first the following day. A different individual flew south past Filey on 13th, while a week later singles flew north at Filey and Marine Drive, Scarborough. Further northbound individuals included: one at Cowbar

on 21st August; Spurn the next day; again off Spurn on 26th; passing Long Nab and Spurn on 27th and finally, another at Filey on 29th August. September proved productive, with 20 at Flamborough spread over 11 dates, including three on 2nd, four on 3rd and three on 8th. There were five singles off Filey in September, while it entered the Spurn log on five dates, including a site record of four north on 15th. A few were noted elsewhere, with singles tracked north past Long Nab on 1st September, Skinningrove on 7th, Cowbar on 11th and Long Nab on 18th. The year's final record came predictably from Flamborough on 30th September.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* **A**

Amber list: scarce to uncommon coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, dispersing southwards in autumn and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring.

Five were off Filey Brigg on 27th June and then a gap until a single at Flamborough on 26th July and two there on 30th, when there was an additional single at Filey. However, this was a mere prelude to ten feeding north of Filey Brigg on 31st July (CCT: CW *et al.*), with a single at Flamborough the same day. The sole August record was a single at Flamborough on 23rd, but September proved to be a better month: four flew north at Spurn at 1830hrs on 10th September; two tracked north past Scalby Ness at 0945 hrs on 11th; two were off Flamborough the following day; six flew north at Spurn on 26th; a single was off Flamborough on 27th September; finally, four flew north at Spurn on 28th. After a blank October, a few were logged along the coast in November, starting with one south at Spurn and two off Flamborough on 9th. Two struggled north at Spurn on 11th, a single flew north at Long Nab at 0710hrs, with possibly the same south at 0917hrs, on 12th and the year's final record went north at Spurn on 13th.

Ringing sessions at Filey met with a modicum of success, with seven trapped on the evening of 7th July and eleven on 30th July, while a single was trapped during a tape-luring session at Flamborough.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **A**

23,26,77,6,13

Amber list: rare to scarce coastal migrant, usually late autumn; rare inland

Breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species, it usually feeds well offshore and Yorkshire records usually involve gale-driven birds.

Unusually, two were discovered at inland sites at the start of the year, although unfortunately both were picked up dead. The first was discovered at CSL's base at Sand Hutton near York on 2nd January (GVW), with the second found the very next day on the shores of Fewston Res. Fresh northerly winds displaced several during September. The first was unusually over the Humber at Spurn on 9th September (JMT) with two singles north at Spurn on 18th (AAH: RJS) and two more passed Long Nab on the same date, at 0722hrs and 0830hrs respectively (NWA). Another tracked north at Spurn on 19th September (GED), with a single south at Flamborough on 22nd (BR: RS). October's sole representative was a single off Barmston on 21st that was eventually killed by gulls (EJH). The strong northerly airflow displaced two more in the second week of November, with one north at Flamborough on 9th (AMA: PC: JMc) and another south at Spurn the following day (GED: IS). Finally, gale force north-westerly winds pushed a single close off Filey Brigg at 0845hrs on 23rd November, which eventually struggled back north (CCT).

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon but increasing breeder, fairly common offshore. BBS 1/222

Breeds in the North Atlantic, with 60% of the East Atlantic population nesting in Britain and Ireland and migrates southwards in autumn. It breeds from Flamborough to Buckton, with the main colony at Bempton.

It remained scarce at the start of the year, with numbers only starting to build from February, with 2000 off Flamborough on 2nd and 3000 there the following day. Numbers remained high as breeding birds returned to the Bempton colony and 3373 flew past Flamborough on 17th March and 3500 passed the headland on 5th May.

The growth in the breeding population appeared to continue, although there wasn't a full count. When the last colony census was undertaken in 2005, 3480 apparently occupied sites were recorded. This year, breeding productivity was high, with an average of 0.83 young fledged per pair, maintaining the almost machine-like breeding success at Bempton, which has rarely fallen below 0.7 fledglings per pair since productivity monitoring started in 1973. It is this year-on-year breeding output that is driving the population growth.

Large feeding flocks could often be watched from the cliffs and included some impressive numbers, with 3900 feeding off Flamborough on 18th July the maximum. Strangely, although no large movements were recorded at Flamborough during September, several other locations did log significant movements: 1100 passed Long Nab in four hours on 1st September, 2497 that flew past Spurn on 10th was a local record, while further up the coast

1165 flew west at Skinningrove on 15th, and 1320 logged at Spurn on 26th was followed by 1800 at Long Nab in six hours on 28th September.

The county witnessed an incredible inland influx at the end of September, focused along the Humber; 135 juveniles were off Brough Haven on 27th, with a juvenile over North Cave Wetlands, five north over Cononley and an immature west over Gargrave the same day. Four juveniles remained off Brough Haven on 28th September and on the same date: 23 tracked west and three east at Blacktoft between 0830–1500hrs; 16 re-orientated NE over Howden between 0930–1100hrs and 13 juveniles flew west through Southfield Res. Further inland: two flew over Knaresborough; one headed east over the A19 at Shipton; one circled St Aidan's before heading up the Aire valley; one tracked NW over North Anston Pit Top; a juvenile flew NE over Walshaw Dean at 1330hrs and presumably a different juvenile headed SE over Luddenden Foot at 1520hrs. Observers logged nine over Paull Holme Sands on 29th September, with another north over J36 of the M62 the same day. A juvenile headed over Fairburn on 1st October, while another juvenile took up temporary residence at Howden Res from 6th–10th October. To the north, another juvenile lingered at Nosterfield NR from 12th–14th October, while a juvenile tracked NW over Old Moor on 13th October and an immature headed over Paull Holme Strays the following day. The year's final inland record consisted of a juvenile SW over Potteric on 1st November.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* **A**

Scarce resident breeder; fairly common winter visitor and migrant. BBS 14/222

Nominate *carbo* breeds on the coasts of the North Atlantic, including the Yorkshire coast. Cormorants also breed at three inland sites in the county, and continental race *sinensis* constitute most if not all of this population. Non-breeding summering birds are present on many inland waters. The inland and wintering population is increasing.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	50	151	93	158	241							
Hornsea Mere	64	83	72	16	34	61	36	32	46	46	78	n/c
North Humber	28	12	8	21	3	11	41	63	77	47	38	24
South Tees	23	6	53	50	41	19	61	124	188	70	28	138

Easily outnumbered by Shags along the coast in winter, numbers remained low at most watchpoints, with an increase at Filey only noted from the last week of February. Single-figure counts of birds heading north were then made on many Filey seawatches through until April. Counts of breeding pairs on Hunt Cliff (23) and at Boulby (42) reveal a consistent population level since 2000. While the colony on the cliffs at Filey remained difficult to census from land, the usual post-breeding build-up occurred on the Brigg, with 39 the maximum on 14th September. A sustained period of north-westerly winds in late July prompted a significant movement of 89 north past Filey on 29th July, but it wasn't until August that an increase was noted at Flamborough: 40 were regular, with better counts of 81 on 11th August and 74 on 31st. Numbers continued to build during September, with 103 on 8th and 98 on 23rd the best; thereafter counts decreased to leave around 20 at the year end. The only significant count from Spurn consisted of a movement of 34 west over the Point on 3rd November.

Inland, breeding again took place at castle Howard and 80 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, although some were washed out in the summer floods; 250 was the maximum count on 13th May. Several pairs attempted to breed again resulting in young still in nests at the end of October. There were 18 nests at the Lower Derwent NNR; 53 fledged of which 41 were ringed. However, the colony here appears to be in trouble, with the Cormorant's own droppings being responsible for killing the nesting trees and reducing water levels also possibly having a detrimental effect. Maximum counts from inland sites included: 60 at Tophill on 21st August; 40 at Winterset on 6th October; 60 at Southfield Res on 12th October; 54 at Old Moor on 20th October; 48 at Staveley NR on 26th October and 64 at Thrybergh CP on 23rd December. One picked up dead at Carleton on 21st March had been rung as a nestling at Castle Craig, Highland on 24th June 2006, 435 km to the north.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* A

Amber list: scarce coastal breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds on rocky coasts of the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, including northeast Yorkshire, with usually only local post-breeding dispersal.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	111	10	25	7	22	0	0	0	33	1	10	0

The north of the county easily experienced the highest wintering numbers since 1991, with counts of 111 at South Gare and an additional 31 at Saltburn on 6th January. Further south 33 wintered in Filey Bay, although the highest tallies were at Flamborough: 100 on 13th January, 120 on 24th February and 100 on 4th March were considered relatively modest. Evidence of how faithful the species is to its immediate breeding area was illustrated by only one summer record from the Scarborough area, when a single flew south at Long Nab on 15th July; this despite the breeding population at Bempton/Flamborough close to the south. In addition, Spurn only logged the species on single dates in each of the June, July and August months, while five non-breeders summered around Filey Brigg. Return passage started in September with 136 off Flamborough on 23rd, 130 were noted there on 27th October, but most activity focused on November. On 11th November 32 south at Filey was the highest count there, 137 flew past Flamborough on 17th, while Spurn recorded 83 on 25th November; the next highest count at the latter location was 30 south on 8th December.

Inland, three were on Gouthwaite Res on 4th January, one dropped onto Burton Riggs on 21st January and an immature remained at Welton Waters from 9th October through to the year end.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding species and scarce migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/192

The small British breeding population continues to slowly recover following extensive management work on reedbeds across the country. Yorkshire’s small breeding population is augmented by continental immigrants in winter.

Potteric Carr again proved to be the premier wintering site, with six present at the end of January/start of February. Sightings reduced in March, with only two present and the last record during the first half came on 5th April. A single appeared on two dates in late August and on 30th September; reports were then regular from 7th October to the year end, with five overwintering.

Winterset experienced a disappointing year, with a single on five dates from 13th January to 15th February. Pit-house West near Rotherham hosted a single from the start of the year until mid-January, after which the bird’s favoured habitat was flattened and it departed. Up to two were present at Pugney’s from the start of the year until 5th April, with another at Hourby Lagoon on 19th March. A lone individual appeared at Hornsea Mere on 14th January, while singles were noted at Tophill on 1st February and 8th April.

There were regular records at Blacktoft throughout the year; booming started on 9th May and an active nest located when feeding flights were observed on 1st June. Such flights by the female continued for about 30 days, but then stopped, indicating that the nest had failed. In addition, two boomers were present at two other sites, although no feeding flights were detected.

Swillington Ings held a single on 4th August, followed by one regularly from 27th September to end of December, with two present on Christmas Eve. The first returned to Pugney’s on 11th October, with two present from 27th November through to the year end. A single frequented Bellflask Quarry from 27th October–13th November; additional singles were at Tophill Low on 14th October and 25th November and Hornsea Mere on 12th November.

A migrant flew east over the Warren at Spurn, before veering north on 15th October.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* **A**

2,1,0,0,5

Rare visitor; 37 previous records

An immature remained along the river Calder at Methley from 31st January to 31st May, although news of its presence only broke during the latter part of its stay (ASi *et al.*).

Two adults were ably identified by two householders from their kitchen window overlooking part of Quarry Moor, Ripon on 2nd February (Mr & Mrs VP). Both were photographed and close examination shows they exhibited features of the American race *N. n. hoactli*.

West Yorkshire then hosted an adult and immature at Fairburn Ings from 17th–31st July (JaH *et al.*) before both spent the majority of August at a nearby private site. They then returned to Fairburn on 5th/6th September and were again present from 14th–23rd September.

CATTLE EGRET *Bulbulcus ibis* **A**

0,1,0,1,1

Vagrant; 8 previous records

A single flew over Beacon Lane at 0950 hrs on 25th November, before doubling back and landing briefly in the Triangle. However, it was soon chased off by sheep and then headed north towards Easington, but wasn’t relocated (JMT *et al.*). Although records are increasing within the county, it still remains a great rarity and this individual constituted a first for Spurn.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in increasing numbers

Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France. The species has established colonies in southern England and continues to expand its range.

There were records from every month and many sites across Yorkshire, although there were fewer from the northern half of the county away from the coast.

Spurn logged 75 bird/days, primarily from early April to November, with a maximum of four on 10th August; there was one record on 15th January and a colour-ringed bird present on 4th March. Peak counts at nearby Beacon Ponds included six on 22nd May and a site record of ten on 2nd June.

Paul Holme Strays proved to be a favoured location, especially during the summer months; numbers increased to six on 23rd July, nine by 16th August and ten by 28th. Nine were still present on 10th September, but only six remained on 15th. Further upstream, Blacktoft hosted low single figures from early May to late November, with maxima of five on 20th May, 10th and 24th August.

Along the coast a party of four flew south past Filey and Flamborough on 31st July. Six then flew north at Filey on 25th August and the same group subsequently tracked past Holbeck, Scarborough.

Many of the larger inland water bodies held low numbers during the summer, with maxima of five at: Tophill from 9th–12th August; Swillington from 9th–23rd August; Fairburn on 20th May and 11th July; Potteric Carr on 9th September. Higher numbers were logged around Old Moor; in August there were up to nine, but in September 11 were present from 5th–16th.

Illustrating the scarcity of the species in the north-west, no more than two appeared at five sites in the Harrogate area, with the exception of three at Bishop Monkton Ings on 26th July.

Two colour-ringed birds visited Old Moor/Potteric and their previous movements are tabulated:

Date	Location	County
Darvic left leg orange F, right leg yellow P		
15/06/2006 (nestling, ringed)	Guernsey	Channel Isles
04/09/2006	River Caen at Braunton	Devon
24/10/2006	River Caen at Braunton	Devon
26/03/2007	River Caen at Velator, Braunton	Devon
23/05/2007	La Claire Mare Nature Reserve, Guernsey	Channel Islands
18/08/2007	YWT Potteric Carr	South Yorkshire
21/08/2007	RSPB Old Moor	South Yorkshire
29/10/2007	RSPB Old Moor	South Yorkshire
Darvic left leg red A, right leg yellow B		
30/06/2007 (nestling, ringed)	North Somercotes, Louth	Lincolnshire
03/08/2007	RSPB Old Moor	South Yorkshire
16/08/2007	RSPB Old Moor	South Yorkshire
20/08/2007	YWT Potteric Carr	South Yorkshire

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* **A**

5,2,0,3,4

Extremely rare late spring and summer migrant; 28 previous records (30 birds)

The first record related to a majestic breeding-plumaged adult that frequented Tophill Low from 5th–16th June and was enjoyed by over 600 visitors to the site (JHes *et al.*). Less co-operative was the next that flew south over the sea at Spurn at 1445hrs on 25th July (AAH: SML). One then took up residence at Swillington Ings from 10th–23rd August (REL *et al.*), making brief visits to Fairburn on 11th, 14th & 15th August (BW: JGI). The year’s last came in off the sea and headed north-west over Beacon Ponds on 5th November (GFe: LR: BRS *et al.*).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* **A**

Uncommon resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 43/222

The BTO Heronries Census shows nationally a long-term moderate increase to record levels of abundance in 2007.

BTO Heronries census data revealed a significant increase with 561 occupied nests recorded from 40 sites; Bretton Park contained the largest colony with 66 nests occupied, while no other site had more than 40.

Away from the breeding colonies, counts included 51 on the ‘D’ Res at Tophill on 11th August, 38 at Fairburn Ings in April, 26 at Cononley Res on 11th July and 28 at Swillington Ings in September.

Coastal movement occurred at Spurn from 5th April to 22nd October; in total 57 birds flew south, with another 11 in off the sea and a best of six south on 29th September.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* **AE**

Scarce migrant; escapes from Harewood confuse status

As with previous years, it is hard to determine which are genuine, wild individuals and which originate from Harewood House.

A ringed ‘Yellow PCC’ individual was identified near Kirklington on 11th January (MD); the same had first been observed in the county near Yarm in September 2006, followed by Thirsk later the same month and then it finally settled down to spend the first half of the winter around Harrogate. It then relocated to Wold Newton on 14th March and stayed until 18th. On 30th March it appeared in fields adjacent to Irton garden centre, near Scarborough; it stayed until the following day, before flying north at Ravenscar on 1st April. Over a week later it was refound at Ottringham on 10th April and then presumably the same flew south at Spurn the following day (JHol: BRS).

There were several sightings during the rest of the year, especially from the west of the county; however, most undoubtedly related to birds wandering from Harewood.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* **A**

28,13,8,20,40

Amber list: scarce migrant and summer visitor April – Sept

Breeds in South-east Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population and has recently increased.

It was an excellent year although the number of individuals involved was impossible to determine, with undoubted duplication between sites, especially as birds moved around the Humber. Blacktoft hosted singles on 18th April and then on 6th and 16th May. Two were present on 30th May, with three the following day that remained until 28th June. Sunk Island recorded singles on 6th May, 12th July and two flew south-east there on 7th September. A first-summer remained at Paull Holme Strays on 1st/2nd June, with another on 24th June. Two birds (one with a white colour ring) were at Patrington Haven on several dates from 4th–25th August.

Spurn had a good year starting with two immatures settling briefly on the Humber before returning back north on 23rd April. A single at Beacon Ponds on 20th May flew south at 0730hrs, followed by another two south at 1430 hrs on 30th May. A lone individual flew over Sammy’s Point on 2nd June. On 20th June six birds (five immatures and a probable sub-adult) flew south at 1015 hrs and finally, one U-turned back north over the ‘Triangle’ on 3rd August.

Two flew north at Hornsea Mere on 15th May and a single headed south there on 30th May. At Filey two, presumably the Hornsea duo, tracked north along the cliffs on 16th May, while the Dams hosted a single on 24th June.

Away from the coast, a single at Tophill was flushed and left to the west at 1500hrs on 2nd June. Swillington Ings attracted an adult in breeding plumage on 23rd April, which departed south-east in the afternoon. Two at Swillington on 11th September were probably the same duo that headed over Old Moor at dusk later the same day. One flew east over Otley Wetland on 4th May and constituted the first record from the Bradford area since 1991. Further singles appeared at: Old Moor on 7th May and 9th/10th August; Fairburn Ings on 23rd April and 9th and 11th August; and Wheldrake Ings on 16th April. In the Harrogate area an early single was photographed at Bellflask Quarry on 11th March, followed by another at Nosterfield NR on 20th May.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* **A**

20,15,17,21,16

Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant May – Sept

This long-distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving mid- to late May, and leaving from mid-August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants.

There were records the regular breeding area near Scarborough from 20th May, with the breeding male present until 30th August and the female until 4th September. Up to two seven males and four females were seen during the summer with one, possibly two juveniles seen on 16th September. A territorial pair was also present at an additional site within the county.

Despite a number of reports elsewhere, there were only two accepted records: one sheltering in Canal Hedge at Spurn on 15th June later flew north (NP *et al.*) and a single flew west through Wintersett on 25th August (PM *et al.*).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* **AC**

Amber list: scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introduction schemes. BBS 6/222

The continued success of the various re-introduction projects has led to an increase in sightings in many areas across the county including: 12 records from Fairburn and 260 records from the Bradford area, where the majority came from the Barden watchpoint in Wharfedale. However, away from the core areas, records are still scarce with only two reports in the Halifax area, one in the Broomhill/Old Moor area and four in the Rotherham area during the year. Birds from the Northern re-introduction scheme are now becoming well established and may account for a number of records, especially in the north of the county, although singles at Sleddale on 6th March, Saltburn on 9th March and Boulby on 2nd April were not reported as wing-tagged.

The number of breeding pairs continues to increase, detailed in the table, but given the increase and spread of the population in recent years, it is now suspected that some nesting attempts are going undetected. Sightings of wing-tagged birds show that four birds from the northern (Gateshead) and one bird from the Midlands release schemes nested in Yorkshire in 2007. Yorkshire tagged kites nested in Northamptonshire and in Perthshire, where one was the first successful breeding record of birds from the English and Scottish re-introduction schemes.

Red Kites breeding in Yorkshire in 2007

Area	No. pairs found	No. pairs attempting to breed	No. successful pairs	No. fledged young
West Yorkshire	29	29	26	53
North Yorkshire	13	13	8	16
East Yorkshire	5	5	4	10
Totals	47	47	38	79

The number of fledged young in the county increased slightly from 53 in 2006 to 79 in 2007, but poor weather resulted in several nest failures and reduced brood sizes at a number of other sites. It is disappointing to report that at least three of the six dead kites found in Yorkshire in 2007 were illegally poisoned, with two of the fatalities also found to contain lead shot.

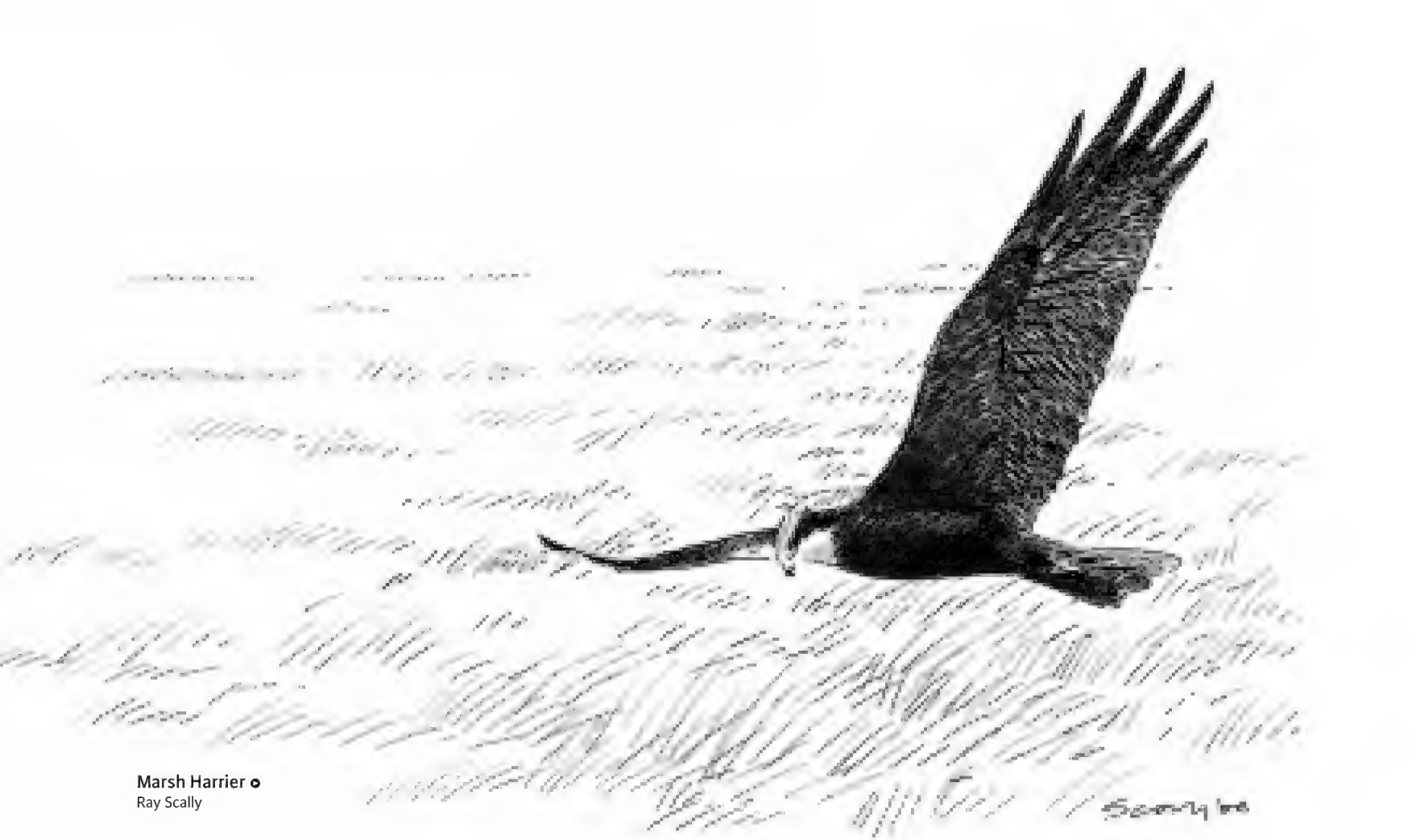
MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* **A**

Amber list: scarce but increasing breeder; uncommon migrant. BBS 1/222

This opportunistic species has increased in numbers in the county, and although most migrate south as far as southern Africa, a few birds now over-winter.

During January and February up to 12 wintering in the upper Humber regularly roosted at either Whitton Sands or Blacktoft. Elsewhere, there were a small number of reports during the first few months, with singles at North Cave on 29th January and up to three on Thorne Moors during the month. In February there were three at Broomfleet Island on 18th, a maximum of four on Thorne Moors and singles on three dates during the month at North Cave; the first February record for Spurn was present on 22nd. In March the first of 19 records for the year in the Scarborough area was noted at Cayton on 15th and one was in the Leeds area on 16th. The number of records increased during April with singles: in off the sea at Boulby and at North Cave on 4th, Scaling Dam on 6th, 7th and 22nd; one in off the sea at Long Nab on 8th; two at Flamborough on 21st April; Wykeham Ings and Wharncliffe Chase on 22nd and the first of seven records in the Old Moor area during the year at Bolton Ings on 23rd. Also in month, singles were at Southfield Res on 23rd, Scalby on 25th, Staveley on 26th and on four dates at Potteric Carr, where it was the best year on record.

Peak passage at Spurn was between late April and early May, with a total of 40 birds heading south, four in off the sea and two u-turning by 1st June, with a maximum day count of six on 3rd May. There were records on five dates in May at Flamborough and on three dates at Wintersett. Elsewhere, singles were at Scalby Lodge Pond on 1st May, with three north and one south at Scalby on 6th, Staveley on 3rd, Bellflask Quarry on 11th with one the following day at Nosterfield. Three were at Southfield Res on 13th May, one on 21st was the only spring record in the Filey area and one the same day at Old Moor was the first of 12 records in the area for the year. In the Leeds area there were singles noted on three dates in May with a female recorded from 9th June until mid July, followed by a minimum of ten different birds recorded almost daily from 19th July until 5th November, including a maximum count of eight birds on 8th September. There were also a series of records from Sherburn Ings during June and July, with a juvenile on 9th August, a second -year male on 4th September and a female on 11th September.



Marsh Harrier ●
Ray Scally

During the breeding season an adult and first-year male and two females were noted at Brough Haven, with at least one pair fledging two young. At Pulfin Bog a male and female arrived and began displaying on March 31st, with two juveniles seen flying to roost on September 13th with the female last seen on October 6th, and a pair summered in Tophill Low area with additional bird(s) noted on several occasions during the summer. Another female was also seen at this site, with the male on several occasions in the same area but not seen after late June. One pair attempted to breed at Saltmarsh Delph, although the local Mute Swan may have prevented successful breeding. Elsewhere, up to four females were present in one area during the summer with a first-year male paired to one female seen carrying nesting material. At Blacktoft Sands four males displayed to at least five females that were involved in nest building during April. All nests were built in the tidal reedbed and were almost certainly flooded out on the late April high tides. However all pairs rebuilt and five nests eventually fledged sixteen young, which constituted a very successful year. The last pair to fledge young did so in August, which was the latest fledging date ever recorded on the reserve. Another pair adjacent to Blacktoft fledged three young. Elsewhere, on the Yorkshire/Lincolnshire border, six females nested on Whitton Sands and a pair fledged young near Goole.

A female was at Old Moor on 9th June whilst in July, a male and female were seen at North Cave during the month, a juvenile male was at Filey on 20th, Potteric Carr on 28th, with a single at South Anston on 30th July the only record of the year in Rotherham area. Also during July singles came in off the sea at Flamborough on 30th and 31st. In August birds were recorded at North Cave on two dates, on eight dates at Filey, seven dates at Potteric Carr whilst elsewhere singles were at Skelton on 4th, Staveley and Nosterfield on 5th and Winterset on 7th August. Two birds were at Scaling Dam on 12th and 18th with singles there on 21st and 25th August. There were singles on eight dates at Southfield Res during August with two at Went Ings on 21st, singles at Malham Tarn on 23rd, Staveley on 24th, Skinningrove on 28th, Grassington Moor and Barden on 29th. Records at Flamborough during August included one on 5th, four on 25th, a juvenile north at sea on 26th and two in off the sea on 30th. Elsewhere on the coast, five birds came in off the sea at Hummersea in front of an advancing fog bank with autumn passage at Spurn totaling 44 birds between 29th July and 6th October with the highest day count of seven on 1st September. A wing-tagged bird at Swillington Ings from 25th August until 8th September had been ringed as a nestling in Tayside. In September singles were at Nosterfield and Winterset on 1st, at Scaling Dam on 2nd and 25th, at Withens Clough on 4th which was the only record of the year in the Halifax area, Oxenhope on 6th, Ravenscar on 7th, the last record of the year from Filey was on 9th September, Scalby on 12th, Denholme Clough on 16th and at Old Moor on 2nd and 26th of September. Also during September there were records on four dates at Potteric Carr and singles on seven dates at Southfield Res with two there 6th. In October there were records on one date at North Cave, singles in Flamborough area on 2nd and 5th and Winterset on 7th and a duo on two dates at Hatfield Moors. During November singles were noted at Farnham on 3rd, Winterset on 11th, two on Hatfield Moors on 29th and North Cave on 30th November;

with a female at North Cave on 4th and 15th December and Beal Carrs on 17th. Good numbers remained on the Upper Humber during the last two months, with roosts of nine at Whitton Sands and five at Blacktoft Sands on 24th November and 12 at Whitton and six at Blacktoft on 9th December. Up to four that hunted Thorne Moors in both November and December were almost certainly birds roosting along the Humber.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* A

Red list: rare breeder; uncommon to scarce migrant and winter visitor

It was very poor year, with a considerable decrease around Halifax, with only 11 records for the year (there were 54 records in 2003), and it was the second worst year on record in the Bradford recording area, with only eight records; three in the first winter and five in second winter periods. In January, singles were in the Scaling Dam area between 5th–7th, at Heyshaw Moor on 6th, Fairburn on 7th, Lambworth on 19th, Hatfield Moors on 20th, Townend Common on 22nd and in the Halifax area on 7th and 23rd January. On the latter date, a single was also at Dallowgill, with another in Rosedale on 26th January. A ringtail was noted on five dates during the month at West Carlton. A male was noted on Thorne Moors in January, with a ringtail present there on 5th; the same location also attracted ringtails on 18th February and 2nd March. In February, a male was at Sherburn on 18th followed by a ringtail on Hatfield Moors on 25th, whilst in March singles were noted at: Redmires Res on 8th; Potteric Carr on 11th; and different birds on Darnbrook Fell, Malham on 23rd and 28th March, with the latter a wing-tagged bird from Bowland. An adult male and a ringtail roosted at Blacktoft erratically between January and March. Numbers did not increase in April, with singles at Howden Moor on 6th, Beacon Ponds and Tophill Low on 8th and a different bird there on 15th. At Spurn, it was a very poor year with only two records, including the first on 27th April. Around the Sheffield area there were four records in the first winter and three in the second winter periods.

There were two nesting attempts in the Yorkshire Dales including an adult male, wing-tagged at Geltsdale in 2002 that was paired to an untagged female. The female was incubating a clutch of five eggs, but both adults disappeared between the 18th and 21st April. This was yet another failure in the same general area of managed grouse moor where Hen Harriers have been attempting to nest almost annually since at least the early 1990s. A second pair did nest successfully in the surrounding area, with a first-year male and a wing tagged first-year female (fledged from a nest in Derbyshire in 2006) successfully fledging one young. The proportion of males breeding in their first year has been found to be much higher on grouse moors than on other land management types, indicating that the survival rates of breeding males on grouse moors is lower than other land use types.

In May a female at was at Tophill Low on 13th and an adult male was at Murk Mire Moor in the North York Moors on 21st, whilst in July singles were noted at Dallowgill on 28th and Sandwith Moor on 29th. There were no further records until September, when a ringtail was recorded over Cononley Moor, Airedale on 4th, a first-winter female in the Halifax area was present from 11th September until November (and joined by a second female on 30th October) and a ringtail lingered on Thorne Moors from 20th–30th September; there were also singles at Swillington Ings and Paul Holme Strays on 29th September. In October ringtails were at: Midhope/Barnside, Barnsley on 17th; Spurn on 18th; West Tanfield on 22nd; Stony Marl Moor on 24th; Fairburn on 27th; at Cononley Ings on 30th; and one at Bellflask Quarry on 28th and a further five dates during November. There was a slight increase in records in November with singles at Paul Holme Strays on 1st, two birds in the Barden area between 2nd–6th, Ewden Heights, Barnsley on 16th and Swillington Ings on 17th. Other November ringtails were north at North Cave on 19th, over Wholestone Moor, Halifax on 21st, Fylingdales on 23rd and Winterset on 25th. A single ringtail roosted at Blacktoft during December, whilst elsewhere singles were present at West Carlton on 1st and 26th, Hatfield Moors on 1st, Howstean Gorge on 9th, at Soil Hill on 11th, near Scar House Res on 16th, Potteric on 28th and West Tanfield on 29th. There was also a ringtail at Langold Pit Top (Rotherham) on 23rd November until the year end and there were records from Scaling Dam on six dates between 17th November and 15th December.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* A

7,6,11,4,3

Amber list: rare to scarce migrant: has bred

The rarest and most migratory of Britain's three breeding species of harrier, the national population has recovered from just one pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north–west Europe east to Siberia wintering south of the Sahara. It is a rare spring and autumn migrant in the county, although each year there is a small number of unconfirmed reports.

The only migrant was an adult male south through Spurn on 22nd April (JMT *et al.*). Significantly however, there was a breeding attempt by a pair that turned up at Fylingdales on 18th May. A nest containing four eggs was located on 24th May and a nest protection scheme assisted by the MoD was put in place. Unfortunately the nest was washed out in late June, with the birds last seen on 20th June (*per* Hawk and Owl Trust).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* AC

Scarce resident breeder and passage migrant. BBS 3/222

With few records received of what can be a very secretive species, the true status of this magnificent raptor is difficult to determine.

A single at North Cave on 15th January was followed by two sightings in the Halifax area during the same month and two in Rosedale on 2nd February. In March there were singles at Helmsley on 3rd, Thornton Dale on 7th and Darnbrook Fell, Malham on 27th. The only record of the year from the Harrogate area, where a number of territorial birds used to be regularly recorded, was in Colsterdale on 31st March. A female was seen at Knotford Nook on 2nd April, an adult male was over Temple Newsam Woods on 15th, with another at Aldbrough on 21st April.

It is difficult to determine breeding numbers, but it appears that there were at least 39 territorial pairs in the county. This included displaying birds noted at one site, and up to two birds at an additional site, in the north of the county in late February and early April. In the Halifax area, calling males were noted at two sites and there were records from three sites in the Bradford area, where display was noted at one site; however, there was no evidence of breeding, or even paired birds. At least five pairs bred in the forests in the Scarborough area, with three juveniles at Wykeham Forest in July and August. Elsewhere, a male and female present at one site in the Rotherham area on four dates during April and birds were displaying at three sites in the south of the Pennines in late February/early April.

Outside the breeding season, there were two records from Atwick, one from Drewton and three from Tophill Low during the year. Singles were at Snilesworth on 4th June, at Fairburn on 7th August, with a record from Swillington on the same day. There were very few records in the late winter period with singles at Slingsby on 21st October; at South Landing Flamborough on 15th November; Nunthorpe on 3rd December and two at Potteric on 28th December.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* A

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 17/222

The population of this widespread but probably under-reported species, after a period of rapid increase, is now static or still increasing slowly. However, in a wet spring, only reported in 17 BBS squares compared to 30 in 2006.

This species remains widely reported from across the county, with no suggestions of any change in status. Along the coast there were three passage birds at Flamborough and a single at Long Nab on 20th May, whilst at Spurn, a total of 35 birds went south between 7th March and 13th May, including notable counts of five on 17th April and eight on 6th May. It was reported as widespread in the Sheffield area and very common in the Leeds area, where breeding was confirmed at two sites, with probable breeding at a further four sites, although it is likely that many attempts went undetected. No change of status was reported in the Bradford area, although there was a decrease in records from urban areas. The population was reported as stable in the New Earswick area, with at least three territorial pairs in spring and numerous in Calderdale, despite only one confirmed breeding record. Further breeding records included single pairs at Adel Dam and Filey Dams, two pairs at Flamborough, widespread breeding in Scarborough area, three territories at Potteric Carr and four breeding pairs at Old Moor. Several likely migrants were reported from Skinningrove and Hummersea during both spring and autumn, whilst further south there were very few autumn coastal records, apart from seven at Flamborough on 25th August. Elsewhere, only nine were recorded between 7th August and 29th October at Spurn and a single headed south at Long Nab on 15th October.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* A

Increasing resident breeder; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 15/222

The breeding population continues to increase as a result of range expansion and it has become an noticeably more numerous in the last 10 years, particularly in the Wolds and VC 62.

Coastal records, presumably relating to migrants, included singles at Flamborough on 12th and 19th March, at Easington on the latter date, at Spurn on 26th March and again at Easington on 28th March. In April one was at Eston Hills on 5th, two south at Spurn on 6th with another in off the sea on 8th, at Boulby on 14th, Easington on 17th and two over North Dykes, Flamborough on 21st, on which date one was also at Spurn. In May one came in off the sea at Spurn on 6th, two were over Flamborough on 16th, with one on 20th.

Inland, this species continues to increase in many areas, with individual records too numerous to list, although there were notable counts of four at Potteric Carr in February/March and November. This species was also reported to be becoming increasingly common in Ryedale and around Filey, the latter a result of colonisation of the adjacent Carrs and Wolds.

The breeding population continues to increase with displaying birds noted at two sites in the north of the

county, eight territorial pairs in the Scarborough area, with several birds now resident in the North Cave area. Pairs possibly bred at Pulfin Bog, Tophill Low and in the Sorby area and a pair fledged three young near Hornsea. Records continued to increase around Worsbrough with 91 records during the year; it is estimated that there are now at least ten pairs breeding birds in the Barnsley Borough and this species is now a resident breeder in the Rotherham area. Sightings are now regular to the south of Wakefield, with several pairs probably breeding and records came from a number of sites in Sheffield area, including Ulley and Thrybergh CPs. In the Dales there are at least six territorial pairs in Upper Wharfedale and an increasing number of records from the Malham area, where one bird bred. A minimum of 11 confirmed nesting attempts came from the Bradford area, with probable breeding at a number of other sites. There were records from a minimum of 30 localities on low ground in the Harrogate area, with breeding occurring at several of these sites, although it is not faring as well in the upland areas. On the southern edge of the Dales there were two territorial pairs in the Cononley area, one of which successfully bred and an increasing number of sightings in the Halifax area, with confirmed breeding at one site and the possibility of a second pair present. In the Leeds area breeding occurred in Harewood Park, but the only other reports of that might indicate breeding were of displaying birds at Walton and a bird carrying food at Knotford Nook in early May.

Presumed autumn passage birds were reported from Scaling Dam and Yarm during August and October, on two dates at Flamborough in August and one at Spurn on 25th. A single flew through Flamborough on 2nd September followed by two at Spurn on 11th, whilst in October there were singles at Flamborough on 1st and Spurn on 16th.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* A

4,5,2,1,4

Rare migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts.

There were only four accepted records, all relating to birds that appeared to have recently arrived on the east coast. The first was photographed as it flew in off the sea and then inland over the Tip at Filey on 21st October (DM: MK: NSt), with a juvenile over cliff top fields at Saltburn on 22nd October, that then headed inland over Brotton (DAM). Next day one tracked over Patrington on 23rd October (DMP: RBa) and the last appeared over Scalby on 4th November (MF).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* A

Amber list: scarce but regular passage migrant

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is migratory, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county.

A very poor year by recent standards, with a lack of south-westerly winds in spring cited as the main reason for relatively few records. Singles over Oxenhope, Keighley on 25th March and Blake Dean, Halifax on 30th were the first. There were more records in April, with singles over the Shibden Valley on 2nd, Fly Flatts on 6th, Staveley on 7th, 14th and 29th, Bellflask Quarry on 10th and 26th, and Riddlesden, Barden (both Bradford area) and Sandbeck Lake, Rotherham all on 10th. Elsewhere, singles were at Malham Tarn on 11th, Redmires Res on 15th, Lindley Wood Res and Langsett Res on 16th, Colsterdale and Barden on 17th, Scaling Dam on 18th April, in off the sea at Spurn on 21st and birds at Potteric Carr and Strines on 22nd. In May, singles were observed at Southfield Res on 3rd, at North Cave on 5th, Newby (Scarborough), Pulfin Bog and Filey Dams on 12th and Worsbrough on 13th. Additionally singles headed over Tophill Low and Farnham on 15th, near Knaresborough on 20th, Flamborough and Fairburn on 21st and finally, at North Cave on 23rd May.

Two birds summered together in the Ure Valley, raising hopes that the species may nest somewhere in the county in the not too distant future. There were only two other records in June, at Tophill Low on 11th and Roundhill Res on 16th. In July singles were at Bellflask Quarry on 7th, Tophill Low and Watton NNR on 8th and Winterset and Fairburn on 21st. August produced two over Oxenhope on 3rd, singles at Farnham on 4th, Scaling Dam on 15th, Old Moor and Barden on 17th, with possibly the same bird seen at the latter site four days later. Birds were also at Winterset and Tophill Low on 22nd August, at Skinningrove and Norton Conyers on 23rd and Pulfin Bog and Spurn on 25th August. Elsewhere, singles were seen at Fairburn on 18th, 21st and 23rd and Mirehall Res, Sheffield on 31st.

In September there were records from Beacon Hill on 1st, two singles south at Spurn on 2nd, Waystone Edge, Halifax on 8th, over Guisborough Moor on 9th, Spurn on 15th, Skelton Beck and Aldbrough on 16th; a young bird at Saltburn from 20th to 26th September had to be taken into care, but unfortunately died. In October one was seen near Draughton on 1st, with possibly the same bird at nearby Chelker Res. on 3rd and a single flew over Howdale Moor on 4th, while Scaling Dam hosted a late single on 6th November.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* A
Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant.
BBS 64/222: -51% (-29) 1994-2007, -36% (-5) decrease 2006-07
National survey results suggest that this species continues to decline probably due to agricultural intensification.

There were widespread records, but no records of note during the first winter period. On the coast, evidence of passage was confined to Spurn, with a total of 13 flying south between 8th March and 18th May. There were numerous breeding season records including: successful pairs at Beal Carrs, two territories at Potteric, at least three pairs bred in the Flamborough area and there were seven occupied nest boxes around Sorby. Two pairs fledged eight young in the Broomhill area; there were three territories at Winterset, with at least one site fledging young. Breeding confirmed at 19 sites in the Sheffield area, with probable breeding at a number of others. Two pairs bred in the Malham Tarn area, but both probably failed as a result of poor weather. This species was reported as still common and widespread in the Leeds area though now probably less numerous than Buzzard, something that would have been difficult to predict a decade ago. There was no change in status in the Halifax area, with three confirmed breeding attempts and probable breeding at a further three sites; although suspected at many others. In the Bradford area the highest count came from Barden, where 13 were present on 29th July with breeding confirmed at six sites in the Washburn Valley, two in lower Wharfedale, and two in Airedale, with breeding suspected at a number of other sites. Elsewhere, in Airedale five territorial pairs were present in the Cononley area, with successful breeding recorded at a minimum of two of these. Puffin Bog reported a general decline and there were no breeding attempts at Spurn, despite up to four birds being present throughout the year.

There was some indication of coastal passage birds in autumn, with an increase in numbers in the Filey area, including a maximum of seven on 22nd September. One flew south at Long Nab on 23rd September, whilst at Flamborough eight were noted on 25th and four on 26th August; five on 2nd and seven on 29th September, with up to five in October and November. At Spurn a total of 14 flew south between 25th August and 27th October and, inland, possible passage birds at Malham Tarn included seven in September and 11 in October.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* 1,1,0,1,1
Rare visitor; 63 previous records
Breeds intermittently from the wooded steppes of eastern Europe to the Baikal region and winters in South-West Africa.

There was only one record, typically from Spurn: a female sat on the tank blocks at the Narrows on 11th June, before flying south and disappearing into thick fog (PCo: AAH: NM).



Red-footed Falcon ●
John Grist

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* A
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 2/222
There appeared to be a reduction in reports, suggesting that the population may be in decline. Numbers were down in the Halifax area, with only 45 records between 23rd January and 17th November and scarcer around Filey, especially in the first period with one present from 4th-31st January. At Old Moor there were records on three dates in the first winter period and five during the second winter period, whilst in the Bradford area, there were 40 records from 19 sites. There were singles on four dates in January at Flamborough and five dates at Spurn; additional singles were also at Scaling Dam on 5th, North Cave on 26th and Southfield Res on 30th. In February, there were records on two dates at Flamborough, two at Blacktoft, seven at Spurn and singles at Fairburn on 5th/6th and at Southfield Res on 20th. March records included singles on three dates at Flamborough, four dates at Swillington, with singles also at Southfield Res on 6th and 27th, at Potteric on 20th.

Up to two were recorded almost daily at Spurn in April and May, with presumed migrants noted at Filey on 3rd April and seven records from Flamborough during the month, while Blacktoft hosted a single on 14th April. Away from breeding areas, there were only a few May records: singles at Filey, Flamborough and Hatfield Moors on 5th, Rodley NR on 20th, Scaling Dam on 28th and North Cave on 30th.

A minimum of 53 territorial pairs were reported in the county, including at least three pairs fledging 11 young and one pair that failed in the Bradford area. There were seven pairs in one study area in the Yorkshire Dales, five of which successfully fledged young. However, it was the worst breeding season in the Harrogate area in 20 years, with none of the four pairs monitored fledging any young, probably as a result of poor weather. In the Halifax area there were three confirmed pairs, with one clutch of four eggs predated. There was at least one pair at a site in the north east of the county, whilst in the south a minimum of four pairs were reported from three sites.

In July singles returned to Flamborough on 27th July, when one also went north off Marine Drive, Scarborough. August records in the east included singles on three dates at Flamborough, one at Filey on 13th and another at Southfield Res on 17th/18th; there were also sporadic records from Blacktoft after the first returned on 1st August, with two present on several dates. Sightings were regular at Spurn from 10th August until the end of November, peaking at three on 17th September; a total of eight passage birds were logged between 10th September and 25th October. After a single at Southfield Res on 15th September, more records followed in October: singles were at Worsbrough on 2nd; Hatfield Moors on 6th and on another five dates until the last on 1st December; at Southfield Res on 14th; and six records at Fairburn and eight records (on seven dates) at Flamborough during the month. There were eight presumed migrants in the Scarborough area between September and November, with records also from Boulby and Saltburn in October and Scaling Dam in December. In October and November there was only one record from Flamborough, but further up the coast there were frequent reports from Filey. Thorne Moors hosted one on 11th November, 19th and 30th December.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* A
Scarce breeding summer visitor, scarce to uncommon passage migrant. BBS 0/222
It is thought that increasing numbers of this visitor from tropical Africa breed in the county, but its secretive breeding behaviour makes detection difficult. The number of sightings each year increases, but proof of breeding is difficult to obtain.

After recent increases, the number of records was down in 2007. The first was at Fly Flats in the Bradford area on 14th April, with further records nearby on 22nd and 23rd. Also during April, singles were at Flamborough and Thorne Moors on 25th, Elland Gravel Pits on 27th, Hatfield Moors and Thornwick Bay on 28th, Swillington Ings on 29th, Potteric Carr on 29th/30th, with another at Fairburn on the latter date. In May singles were at Beal Carrs on 4th and 18th, Scalby on 5th, when two were also at Spurn, Southfield Res on 6th, Winterset and Skinningrove on 8th, Beacon Ponds from 10th-14th and Thornwick Bay on 13th. There were also two at Filey on 20th and a single at Reighton on 23rd. There were only single records from the Halifax and Cononley areas during the year, on 18th and 25th June respectively. Up to two were regular at Spurn in May and June, with only a single sighting in July. Blacktoft recorded its first of the year on 10th May with regular sightings then until 11th September, with a best of three on 30th May and 5th June. There were fewer records in the Harrogate area this year, although sightings came from 14 different locations. In June singles were at Scalby on 1st and 22nd, Pickering on 3rd, Burniston on 9th, Munston on 17th, Aldbrough on 19th and on two dates at Flamborough.

There were only a small number of breeding records reported including one pair that fledged one young around Scarborough; with probable breeding recorded at two other sites in the area. In the Harrogate area there were almost daily records at one site from 17th June until early August, with an adult seen carrying prey into a wood; a pair bred at Wasslands and at least two pairs were located in SK58, Rotherham. A single pair bred

in the York area, whilst elsewhere in the county there were four probable pairs at one site, with confirmed breeding at a second and another pair also breeding nearby. Hatfield Moors recorded several throughout the summer until the last on 6th October, with a best of five on 23rd June; at least three were still present on 11th August and 15th September. Records at nearby Thorne Moors spanned late April until 11th September, with a maximum of six on 24th July, which included three juveniles; one pair bred in the area.

There were 11 records from the Sheffield area between 30th April and 30th August, regular sightings at Beacon Ponds during the summer and from Winterset between 9th June and 22nd July. In the Swillington Ings/Park area there were three records in May, nine in June (including three together on 20th), seven in July, and eight reports in August. In September a juvenile bird was recorded on three dates, two adults on 12th, with the final bird of the year on 26th September. There were ten records from the Bradford area, all from Barden between 1st June and 25th August. One or two birds were present at Atwick from 2nd May until late August and there were a minimum of 23 records during the summer at Tophill Low. Fairburn recorded two singles in May, six in June, four in July, nine in August and five in early September, with the last on 13th.

Singles were at Pulfin Bog on 3rd and 10th July, Scaling Dam on 4th and Cromer Point on 9th. In August there were two birds on three dates and singles on three dates at Potteric Carr, with singles at Sand Hutton on 3rd, Malham Tarn on 5th, at Southfield Res on 21st, 28th/29th and Filey's only autumn record on 19th. Also during August, singles were at Worsbrough on 22nd, Cloughton Wyke on 29th, Wykeham on 31st and at Spurn there were two on 9th, with singles on six other dates. An adult remained at Winterset from August 27th–23rd September, with singles at Pugneys on two dates in both August and September. A juvenile on 4th September was the only autumn record from Halifax, whilst elsewhere a juvenile appeared at Flamborough on 13th and 27th–30th September. Up to two were recorded on eleven dates in September at Potteric Carr, with the last record on 27th. Also in September two birds were at Southfield Res on 9th, 11th and 15th with a single juvenile on 17th and Worsbrough on 25th. There were 12 records from the Rotherham area; this included a single on 8th October, with additional late records from Stainborough Park, Worsbrough on 17th and another at Spurn on 20th October.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* **A**
Scarce resident breeder and winter visitor. BBS 4/222
The population is probably slowly increasing.

There is a stark contrast between the fortunes regionally within the county, with an increasing number of records from lowland areas, but many traditional nesting sites on managed grouse moors in the uplands now no longer occupied. Outside the breeding season there was an increase in reports in the Leeds area with records from at least seven sites during the year, records on 25 dates at North Cave and it was the best year ever at Potteric Carr, with records in every month apart from June. There was also an increase at Spurn with 75 bird/days logged. There were sporadic reports at Tophill Low, Paul Holme Strays, 25 reports from the Rotherham area and birds were recorded on 55 days, in every month at Old Moor. In the Harrogate area there were regular sightings with up to four birds at Nosterfield during both the first and second winter periods. Elsewhere, there were records from East Cleveland, Sleddale and throughout the year at Scaling Dam. There were five records during the year at Winterset and an adult female was present in Wakefield from 27th November until the year end.

Records suggest that there were a minimum of 27 occupied territories in the county, including a pair in East Cleveland, thought to have bred successfully. A pair was present in the Barnsley area in April, an immature male and female noted in Hull during breeding season, a pair were regularly seen on Tinsley Cooling Towers in Sheffield and breeding was strongly suspected from the same site as last year in the Leeds area. Six pairs bred in the Halifax area, with five pairs successfully fledging 12 young (one nest robbed) and a pair bred in Keighley, fledging four young. In the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Group area a total of 28 sites were checked, but only 12 were occupied, eight of which successfully fledged 18 young. On the coast a pair fledged two young at Filey, a pair probably bred at Flamborough, a pair were at Buckton in April and one pair bred in Scarborough, fledging three young.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* **A**
Scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor

The species remains widespread, but scarce, with records from many areas in both the first and second winter periods. In the first four months there were two at Spurn and singles at Thrybergh CP, Filey Dams, Starr Carr, Ulley CP (third record), Pugneys CP and up to five at Winterset. Subsequently there were singles at Scalby Mills on 13th March and at Flamborough on 6th and 10th April. There were records from nine sites in the Leeds area

during the year, but there was a considerable decrease in records at Swillington Ings. During the breeding season birds were present at nine sites, with one pair proved to have bred and a further 14 possible/probable breeding pairs. Filey Dams lacked any summer records, while up to four were present at Fairburn throughout the year; however, there were no confirmed breeding attempts.

Up to three were at Spurn from late September to the year end, with a maximum of five on 4th November; after the first autumn record in Filey on 5th October, three appeared from mid-month, with at least one remaining until 10th November. Other October records included singles at Thornwick, Flamborough on 25th and 28th and up to four birds frequented Old Moor during the month. While undoubtedly present at Blacktoft throughout the year, birds became more obvious in October, with a maximum of six on 8th. In November, a single was again at Thornwick on 22nd and three were at Potteric Carr on 29th. Four were present at both Potteric and Tophill Low in December; up to ten birds were recorded at Winterset from late October until the year end and birds were present at Pugneys CP from September until the end of the year.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* **A** 8,7,6,3,6
Amber list: rare occasional breeder; rare summer visitor and migrant

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in the county, but proof of breeding is difficult to confirm.

During the breeding season, there were four calling males in the Lower Derwent Valley. In a disappointing year, the only migrants were a juvenile at Blacktoft Sands on 25th August and one discovered at Long Bank, Spurn on 23rd September (GED).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* **A** 2,1,3,2,4
Red list and UK BAP species: rare occasional breeder, summer visitor and passage migrant

There was an encouraging number of singing males recorded during the year: in the north of the county one called at Hummersea on 5th June (ECP), with another heard at Pinchinthorpe nightly from 4th until 8th July; however, it may have been present two weeks before this (MAB *et al.*). Another singing male frequented the Lower Derwent from 21st June until 5th July. In the east of the county, a male called at Grimston from 4th–9th July (TI *et al.*).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* **A**
Common to abundant resident breeder; some immigration in autumn/winter
BBS 51/222: +67% (+16) 1994–2007, –7% (–5) 2006–07

The long-term population trend is one of increase, despite a slight reduction in BBS records this year. A widespread species with low numbers reported from numerous sites across the county. Notable counts included 33 at North Driffeld on 16th, whilst in the Dearne Valley there were 80 on 25th January, 50 on 19th February and 11th March, increasing to over 60 in April. Elsewhere, 35 were at Rother Valley CP on 1st February, 24 at Potteric Carr and 28 at Nosterfield on 15th April.

There were breeding records reported from many wetland sites, with 18 pairs in the Winterset area the highest number reported. There was no real indication of breeding success, apart from in the Leeds area, where the wet summer resulted in low numbers of fledged young. Post breeding season, 41 were at Staveley in August, with numbers peaking at 46 at Cononley Ings, 32 at Potteric Carr and 111 at Fairburn during September. Other notable counts included 36 at Nosterfield on several dates in the second winter period. The Aire Valley from Skelton Lake to Lowther Lake held 122 in October, 132 in November and 105 in December. The highest counts at Winterset (55) and Tophill Low (73) came on 7th October. At Mickletown Ings 38 were present on 11th November and several other waters held 15–20 during the month. There were up to 30 at Hay-a-Park in November and December. However, the highest counts were recorded in the Old Moor area, with 166 in September, 140 in October, 120 in November and 170 in December.

COOT *Fulica atra* **A**
Fairly common resident breeder; some immigration in winter. BBS 17/222

The population of this Palearctic species is probably stable in line with national trends. Numbers in winter are be swollen by immigrants from northwest Europe, whilst it breeds in varying numbers on most suitable wetland sites from small ponds to large bodies of water.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	112	76	27	18	16	21						
Fairburn Ings	339	300	123	171	233	–	326	406	948	1390	1394	1013
Hay–a–Park GP	384	135	121	–	–	–	–	–	555	528	695	784
Hornsea Mere	710	830	365	210	190	215	315	950	590	675	560	–
North Cave	217	128	95							222	142	154
Old Moor	314	166	320	251	50	235	290	440	372	362	300	860
Pugneys CP	54	51	26	31	27	16						
Tophill Low Res	195	90	57	90	60	70						
Winterset Res	450	206	114	89	66	66	91	259	666	620	698	831

This species remains widespread and common on areas of open water, with notable January totals of 600 at Malham, 276 at Knotford Nook, 230 at Swillington Ings, 300 at Skelton Lake, 260 at Farnham, 150 at Routh and 100 at Eccup Res. At Catwick there were 361 in January, 195 in February and 82 in March, with 90 at Brough Airfield during the latter month.

Breeding records included 20 pairs at Denaby Ings, 29 pairs at Fairburn, 15 pairs at Potteric, a minimum of 52 pairs at Winterset and 11 pairs at Broomhill Flash. Breeding success at many sites, especially in the Leeds area, was severely affected by summer flooding.

Post breeding numbers included 110 at Mickletown Ings in August and 214 at Potteric Carr on 16th September, the highest number recorded there for many years. The maximum combined count from the Skelton Lake to Lowther Lake area was 532 birds on 11th November, with up to 40 birds at a further 15 sites in the Leeds area during the second winter period. Additional three-figure counts the last quarter included 200 at Lingham Lake and Staveley NR and 500 at Malham in November.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* **A** 32,9,5,41,5
Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant. BBS 1/222

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March.

By recent high standards, it was a poor year with two west over Hedon on 29th April and, presumably the same, then appeared at Wheldrake Ings on 30th April, with at least one still present the next day (CSR *et al.*). One flew north at Spurn on 10th May (AAH *et al.*) and was then tracked further up the coast flying over Beacon Ponds, Aldbrough (AFJ) and then Hornsea later in the day. One landed briefly at Swillington Ings on 20th May before heading off west and constituted the first record for the Leeds area (JMa). There was one autumn record, with one over Hoyland Common, Worsbrough on 27th September (GG: RBR).

A pair again bred at the regular site in the county; two eggs hatched, but unfortunately the young did not survive to fledging.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor/passage migrant. BBS 44/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 10,200: GB threshold 3200
Nationally there has been a long-term increase in the breeding population following inland colonization, but wintering numbers show a slight decline over the past 10 years.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	456	1166	205	352	223	75	217	625	354	206	148	96
South Tees	634	811	288	219	103	102	108	347	873	411	740	340

While numbers of birds on the south Tees were the best for nearly a decade, the number of birds using the Humber continue to decline, with an average monthly total of just 344 (752 in 2005, 446 in 2006). The numbers along the entire northern shore of the Humber are tabulated, with maxima at specific sites including 733 between Patrington and Easington on 25th February and 630 at Spurn on 14th August. Other maximum coastal counts included 120 at Sandsend on 7th January, 410 at Robin Hood’s Bay on 3rd March, 200 at Kettleness on

several dates in August and September, 348 at Scarborough on 2nd October, 158 at Filey on 15th January, 99 at Flamborough on 21st January and 114 at Barmston on 13th February.

There was good southerly passage along the coast between late July and early September: Filey recorded 1344 during the period, while Flamborough had 2387, including a high count of 468 on 21st August. Spurn logged 3247 flying south, with a maximum count of 425 also on 21st August.

The species continues to thrive at inland sites. In the Yorkshire Dales NP, at least eight pairs bred at Grimwith Res, with a maximum count there of 57 on 21st March. Most inland sites had birds back on territory from March and most had departed again by late August. Even though the floods had an effect on the breeding season, there were still many successful breeding attempts. Breeding was successful at Cononley Ings (four pairs), Walshaw Dean, Swillington Ings, Fairburn Ings, Rodley NR, Calder Wetlands, Flouch Inn, Langsett, Old Moor, Broomhill, Anglers CP, Potteric Carr, North Cave Wetlands, Beal Carrs, Wykeham Lakes, Blacktoft Sands, Tophill Low NR, Pulfin Bog, and at least six sites in the Bradford area. A count of 95 at Thruscross Res near Bradford on 2nd March was impressive. There were only a few inland sightings after September, which included: two at Southfield Res on 19th October and one there on 3rd November; one at Scammonden on 3rd November; and singles at Swillington Ings on 21st November and Lindley Wood Res on 19th December.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon visitor. BBS 1/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 35
Nationally numbers increased to a record high, up 16% on the previous year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	0	270	189	305	175	8	94	62	9	8	48	0

The breeding strongholds in East Yorkshire had a very poor year, despite good numbers present throughout the summer. At Blacktoft Sands, it was a disastrous breeding season, which had started quite promisingly. At least 140 pairs nested and despite initial losses at the egg stage, at least 65% of nests estimated to have hatched successfully. However, Black-headed Gulls took most of the chicks and only four fledged successfully. The massive increase in the number of pairs was due to the loss of the lagoon system at Reads Island and the displaced birds seeming reluctance to nest on Alkborough Flats. Paull Holme Strays fared little better; after 44+ pairs were sitting in early May, by late May there were none left, due to the breeding area having been washed away. At North Cave Wetlands, 28 pairs were nesting during May and 12 young seen at the end of the month. There was then a complete failure of the colony due to adverse weather (the worst floods in 60 years affecting the area) coupled with severe predation by foxes and gulls. There were several other breeding attempts; pairs were nest scraping/sitting at Beacon Ponds, Potteric Carr, Swillington Ings and Old Moor, although none successful.

The first of the year appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 16th February, numbers then built up during the spring and summer with a very impressive maximum of 390 on 29th July. Good numbers also recorded at several sites along the upper reaches of the Humber, with the following maxima: 228 at Brough Haven on 28th September; 151 at Paull Holme Strays on 13th May; 140 at Saltend on 1st April and 170 at Paull Holme Strays on 26th July.

Elsewhere, up to four recorded at Spurn on eight dates during the year, but predominantly in April. Other wandering birds in April saw two at Fairburn Ings on several dates, two at Southfield Res on 17th, two at Tophill Low NR on 18th, one at Rother Valley CP on 19th, and one at Winterset Res on 29th. One was at Pugney’s CP on 23rd May, three flew over Winterset Res on 12th June and one was at Whiteholme Res, Halifax on 11th August.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* **A** 1,2,1,1,1
Amber list and UK BAP species: rare visitor; 40 records since extinction as a breeding species in 1930s
A long term decline in the British population of this summer visitor in the early part of the 20th century brought about the loss of this species as a breeding bird in Yorkshire in the 1930’s. It is now an over-shooting spring migrant from the increasing population in East Anglia.

One record ensured the continual annual visitor status to Yorkshire: a single located north-west of Hornsea at Bewholme on 11th April (WFC).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* A 22,95,33,69,22
Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant/summer visitor. BBS 1/222
A summer visitor from Africa, which is widespread across Europe. First bred in Britain at Tring in 1938.
The first record came from Wombwell Ings on 12th March, followed by singles at Dewsbury on 14th and Hay-a-Park GP on 20th. Thereafter, records were received from at least 54 sites throughout the county, although it still remains a scarce bird at coastal sites; with only 15 records of up to three at all the sites combined. Inland, the only gathering in double figures was 23 at Old Moor on 13th June. Most birds had departed between late July and mid-August. Late stayers included singles at Swillington Ings on 28th August; Blacktoft Sands and Whiteholme on 3rd September and Old Moor regularly up to the last on 23rd September.
This species was also badly affected by the very wet summer, out of a minimum of 35 reported breeding pairs, only 12 pairs fledged young. Four pairs at both Old Moor and Swillington Ings had complete failures. Only three juveniles fledged from five pairs at Huxter Well, Potteric Carr. Other successful breeding attempts included single pairs at Wykeham Lakes, Cononley Ings, Fairburn Ings, Ringstone Edge, Yeadon Airport, Redmires Reservoirs, Aldwarke SF. However, the most successful site was at Heron Lakes, Routh in the East Riding, where five pairs fledged four broods.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* A 3,1,0,1,1
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 0/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 330 winter, 300 passage
Winter numbers had been declining, hence the Amber status, but levels now appear to be stable. Small numbers winter on the estuaries, with spring migration of birds that breed further north usually peaking in mid to late May, and returning birds in August. Breeds in small numbers both on the coast and inland.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* A
Amber list: scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; rarely has bred
This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, on route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county.
A poor year: Round Hill, near Bradford offered sanctuary to a single during poor weather on 4th May (JLT), while a trip of 14 was on the summit at Ingleborough the following day, with nine still present from 9th to 11th. Three were on Whitley Common, near Ingbirchworth from 6th–8th May and three were at Danby Beacon on 23rd May.
In the autumn, a juvenile associated with two Golden Plovers in cliff top fields near Boulby on 6th October (MRKA *et al.*).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* A
Vagrant: 23 previous records (24 birds)
A North American species that winters in South America, with autumn-blown migrants most likely in Yorkshire.
A moulting adult was found in fields between Easington and Kilnsea on 13th October (AAH *et al.*). The bird flew off south but was relocated later the same day at Sammy’s Point, where the bird was then seen sporadically and at nearby Spurn up to the last sighting on 28th October.
Spurn’s only previous record came in May 1988.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	82	17	39	102	66	25	30	406	283	224	35	25
South Tees	0	9	19	12	43	17	11	30	16	56	0	7

A scarce bird along the coast and the Humber in the first winter period, the best counts being 13 at Sandsend on 7th, 15 at Filey on 28th, 75 between Hull and Paull Holme Strays on 31st January; 40 at Sewerby on 3rd and 36 at Spurn on 21st February. Numbers increased during the spring, in particular during May when northern *tundrae* race birds moved through. These were most noticeable on the Humber: 150 at Sunk Island on 12th May, 142 on 29th and 100 on 31st May at Spurn and 80 at Paull Holme Strays on 1st June. The only coastal breeding records came from Spurn, where just 12 pairs attempted to breed. Unfortunately, it was a disastrous season, with just two young reared to fledging stage.
Inland small numbers appeared at a few sites across the county from mid to late February, but again the heaviest passage occurred during late April to late May when *tundrae* birds were moving through. It was a widespread passage, from lowland wetlands to moorland edge reservoirs. The largest concentrations were 29 at Old Moor on 10th, ten at Nosterfield NR on 12th, 20 at Hatfield Moors on 12th and 19th, 40 at Swillington Ings on 19th and 23rd, and 12 at Malham on 19th May was the highest ever count at that site. Also on 19th, 28 at Redmires Res was the highest spring count for that site and the largest concentration since 1970.

Inland breeding included: 11 pairs in the Yorkshire Dales NP; six pairs at Potteric Carr raised 15 young; three pairs at Rawmarsh and one pair at Heron Lakes, Routh. The floods also affected this species and Old Moor, Fairburn Ings, North Cave Wetlands, and Winterset all had complete failures due to the flooding.

Return passage peaked from late July to early September. Visible offshore southerly passage along the coast saw counts of 84 on 14th and 28 on 18th August at Filey, 27 at Flamborough on 18th August, but just 67 between 14th July and 7th September at Spurn. Congregations on the coast and the Humber during this period included high counts of 245 at Spurn on 15th August, 51 at West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough on 11th August, building to 76 on 21st; and 171 Hull to Paull Holme Strays on 1st September. Inland during this period there were few noteworthy counts, although 20 were on Hatfield Moors and 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 11th August.

During the last quarter, the highest counts were typically along the coast with 204 at Spurn on 21st October; 14 at Filey on 2nd November; 50 at Flamborough on 17th, and 31 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 19th December.



American Golden Plover
Jack-Ashton Booth

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* A 0,1,0,0,1
Vagrant: 3 previous records
A superb bird in breeding plumage was seen at Spurn on 17th July; it first flew over the Warren calling and then spent 15 minutes on the Humber, before it left north and probably turned west towards Lincolnshire (AAH: IS *et al.*). Only the fourth county record, this was the first since another at Spurn on 16th July 2004.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* A
Amber list: uncommon moorland breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 26/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 9300: GB threshold 2500
Breeding numbers are still thought to be contracting, but nationally, wintering numbers have been increasing. The Humber estuary is the most important UK wintering site, with peak counts over 47,000, with most birds of Fennoscandian or Russian origin.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	31144	17163	100	1	0	14	1842	2291	2231	18410	18980	1855

The largest concentrations were along the Humber during January–February and October–December; the more noteworthy counts: 15,000 at Paull Holme Strays on 6th January, but increasing to 22,559 on 30th; 9300 at Stone Creek on 25th February; 5780 at Stone Creek on 4th November; 14,000 at Paull Holme Strays on 22nd

November and 4600 at Spurn in December. Other coastal sites saw small numbers, although there were 700 at Stokesley on 25th February; in the Scarborough area 400+ were at Rillington on 27th January; 330 were seen at Filey on 8th December; 240 at Flamborough on 14th October; 1800 at Atwick and 1370 at Ulrome on 21st November. Autumn passage at Spurn logged 46 south and 153 in off the sea between 6th July and 5th November, with a high count of 87 in off on 2nd September.

There were some good sized gatherings at inland sites: Old Moor recorded 3500 in January and February, up to 2000 in September and a maximum of 4200 on 25th October. At Potteric Carr, a large wintering flock on Huxter Well peaked at 3000 on 18th February and 8th December. Blacktoft Sands recorded 4000 on 22nd February and 5th December. Other large winter counts included 2000 at Pugney’s CP on 3rd January, 3000 at Wheldrake Ings on 17th January, 10,600 in the entire Lower Derwent Valley on 16th February, 4000 at North Duffield Carrs on 26th February, 2000 at Beaver Dyke in the North Riding on 8th March. Numbers generally dropped quickly from early March. In the spring 3000 flew over Scargill Pasture near Bradford on 1st April. Breeding reports came from several moorlands in the Pennines, including Whiteholme, Fly Flats and Sleepy Low in the Halifax area; Outer Edge, Mickleden Edge, Long Moor, Range Moor, Hallam Moors, Rudd Hill and Brown Edge in the south Pennines; Beamsley Moor, Bingley Moor and Rombald’s Moor in the Bradford area.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2500: GB threshold 530

A visitor from breeding grounds in the high Arctic, this globally widespread species winters on the outer Humber, with passage noted in April and May, and again in September. Counts on the Humber regularly exceed the GB threshold. The national trend is declining however.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1280	329	360	1464	897	13	39	289	1739	373	1004	232
South Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	21	0	85

Away from the Humber, coastal records were scarce. Scarborough waited until August for its first record and then no more than two were recorded on nine dates to early October. At Filey, there were three records involving five birds in February and March, and then a gap until August, when there were eight records, all being single birds except for two on 21st. Six south on 30th September was a good count, after which there were a further five bird/days until 11th November. One at Flamborough on 21st April was the only sighting in the first half of the year. One on 29th July and four on three dates in August passed south offshore. September saw seven singles, with six on 30th, while October saw four on 13th and five more on four dates. November produced one on 6th, five on 10th, two on 11th and seven on 12th. There was one on 13th and 14th December. There were 19 at Barmston on 3rd November.

Inland, Southfield Res had a good series of records: in March one flew west on 14th and one was heard calling on 27th. Singles were seen on 28th April and 8th June. One flew west on 5th August, while in September one flew west on 10th, and five came in from and departed to the east on the 27th. In October two were seen on the 10th and 17th, the final record was one in from and out to the east on 15th November. Blacktoft Sands saw three on 10th June, two on 15th August and singles on five dates between 31st August and early October, with two on 17th October. One or two were seen on nine dates at Tophill Low NR between 11th August and 26th October. One was at Old Moor on 26th March, one was seen at Swillington Ings on 29th March, and one at Watton NR on 14th April. A single was on Wombwell Ings from 9th–11th May, one flew over Thrybergh CP on 5th June and one was at Broomhill Flash on 11th June. October produced a series of records: one was at Swillington Ings on 9th, singles were at Nosterfield NR on 4th, 6th and 19th, and at Fairburn Ings on 7th, 17th and 19th, with two present on 18th. One flew west at Otley Wetland on 13th October, one was at Potteric Carr on 14th October, while Beal Carrs had singles on 5th October and 19th December.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident; common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 125/222: +102% (–18) 1994–2007, +22% (–5) 2006–07
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20,000: GB threshold 20,000

UK residents are joined in winter by migrants from Scandinavia and northern Europe. Wintering numbers were down in the first winter period. There has been a long-term national decline in the breeding population, but BBS data suggests some increase in England since 1994, and the Yorkshire data for 2007 supports this.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	7087	4447	5	24	51	242	679	493	44	860	912	590
South Tees	0	41	0	0	2	14	4	4	47	190	0	0

The best counts along the Humber included 1243 between Paull and Stone Creek on 28th January and 2110 there on 25th February; 5600 at Paull Holme Strays and 20,000 at Paull Holme Sands on 1st February; 1300 at Brough Haven on 18th February; 1223 between Faxfleet and Brough Haven on 25th February and 3000 at Blacktoft Sands on 30th November. Notable inland winter flocks included 5000 at Wheldrake Ings on 7th January, 2000 at Skipton SF in January and February, 2700 at Cononley Ings, 1500 at Denton and 1500 at Swillington Ings in February, 3000 at Potteric Carr on 18th March, 2500 at Old Moor in September and November and 2000 at New Earswick in December.

Spring passage at Spurn logged 3699 south, with the bulk in late February and was probably a cold weather movement: 321 on 18th, 272 on 20th, 2740 on 21st, 166 on 23rd, and 154 on 25th.

Mixed reports on breeding, with several sites reporting good breeding seasons, yet absent from other regular sites. At Potteric Carr, 19 pairs hatched 39 young, although most predated, Old Moor fledged 38 young and at Winterset, 17 pairs hatched 17 young. Twenty pairs bred at Kelk and at North Cave Wetlands, with many young raised at the latter site. There were also many successful reports from the moorland edges.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4500: GB threshold 2800

The Humber was the fourth most important UK wintering site for this species. Birds are almost exclusively of the race *islandica* that breed in northern Greenland and high Arctic Canada. The population is thought to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	15,859	10,154	11,226	5829	215	1	4150	14,950	40,997	24,824	17,564	12,892
South Tees	329	420	58	42	0	0	0	3	150	22	126	164

Numbers on the Tees remained low throughout the year. Filey had a small wintering flock in both periods, with 32 on 17th February and 97 on 27th October. Otherwise, most coastal sightings away from Spurn were of birds on autumn passage; just a handful passed Scarborough in July and August. At Filey small numbers flew south in July, but peaked in August, when 821 flew south during the month. Similarly, at Flamborough, birds were on the move most days in August, including 138 on 12th and several counts of 50+. The passage at Spurn saw 1865 fly south and 662 come in off the sea between 13th July and 12th November and high counts were 166 on 28th July, 451 on 12th August, 509 on 2nd September and 154 on 24th September.

Present on the outer Humber throughout the year in good numbers, the best at Spurn were 35,000 on 29th April, 12,000 on 30th July, 25,000 on 16th August, 40,000 on 7th and 20th September, and 30,000 on 1st October. The only other high count along the Humber was 27,500 at Sunk Island on 29th August.

Good inland winter records included singles at Fairburn Ings on 1st January, Rother Valley CP on 1st–3rd January and North Duffield Carrs on 13th February. Inland, spring passage was light: singles were at Thrybergh CP on 4th March, Fairburn Ings on 16th March, Old Moor 27th–29th March and Potteric Carr on 17th March, 29th April and 29th May. Further singles recorded at North Duffield Carrs from 10th–14th April, Whiteholme on 20th April, Swillington Ings on 18th–22nd April and 30th April–1st May, and Nosterfield NR on 14th May. Three were at Blacktoft Sands on 10th June.

Return passage was under way from late June, with two summer plumaged adults at Swillington Ings on 27th June and singles there on 20th and 27th August and 5th September. Blacktoft Sands recorded one to four regularly from 17th July to 30th September, including six on 21st September. Good numbers recorded at Tophill Low from 8th August to the end of September, including 27 on 9th September. At Old Moor, a juvenile was present from 14th–19th August and a juvenile was there on 19th September. The last two were on 19th November, with one remaining until 20th. At Fairburn Ings, a party of 15 flew west on 29th August and singles were recorded on 5th and 29th September and 9th October. At Southfield Res one circled before flying off south-east on 18th August and four flew east on 21st; in September three were present on 3rd and two on 28th. At Redmires Res, records included one on 18th September, four on 29th October and one on 25th November. Singles were at Nosterfield Quarry on 25th and 26th August, and Ulley CP on 18th August, two flew west at Winterset on 18th September and finally, a single dropped in at Ringstone Edge on 11th November.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* **A**
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 210 winter, 300 passage
Breeds on the high Arctic tundra from Canada east to Siberia, and Palearctic birds winter south to Africa. The national numbers are stable or increasing slightly.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	12	31	0	4	12	87	42	305	228	0	8	39
South Tees	50	179	120	119	26	13	10	75	103	116	135	88

The South Tees held good numbers throughout the year, although there were no high counts in May, a time that usually sees the largest numbers moving through. Wintering birds at Scarborough were low with a maximum of just 10 on 3rd January. In comparison, Filey had a very good start to the year with 137 roosting on the Brigg on 7th January, 80 were at Barmston on 13th February, 52 were at Ulrome on 22nd January, and the Spurn winter high count was just 42 on 5th January.

Spring passage saw numbers build at several coastal sites. Thirty-eight were at Scarborough on 6th April and 85 flew north on 14th May and 65 were at Filey on 9th April. At Spurn between 6th and 8th May, 20 flew out north and 25 came in off the sea; later still, good numbers turned over along the peninsula, including high counts of 309 on 7th, 280 on 31st May; and 192 on 16th June. The only notable count along the Humber was 18 at Paull Holme Strays on 1st June.

Typically inland spring passage occurred between late April and early June, peaking in May. One to four were seen at Blacktoft Sands between 30th May and 9th June; at Swillington Ings, the first was seen on 21st April, then in May one to three were seen on 13 dates from 11th to 31st. In the Old Moor area, singles were present on 13th, 21st – 24th April; 24th and 30th May; 3rd – 4th June and five on 23rd May. Singles were at Fairburn Ings on 9th and 19th May, at Potteric Carr on 8th May, with two there on 29th. Flyovers at Southfield Res included one on 12th May and five on 25th. Up to three recorded on six dates at Redmires Res between 10th and 30th May and five were on Hatfield Moors on 12th May. Two were at Rother Valley CP on 25th May. Elsewhere, singles were at Green Withens on 2nd May, at Whiteholme on 9th May, Thornton Moor Res on 11th and 25th May, Lower Laithe Res on 24th May and Tophill Low on 3rd June.

Return migration started early again and Filey logged 25 south on 1st July and a peak of 42 on 20th July; some light passage at Flamborough, with a maximum of 18 on 2nd August and at Spurn 430 flew south between 12th July and 24th September with a peak of only 63 on 21st July. High counts on the Humber shore at Spurn included 380 on 29th August, 511 on 5th September and 250 on 5th October. Wintering flocks peaked at 31 at Filey in October and 152 at Barmston on 3rd November.

Autumn migration through inland sites was light: singles were at Redmires Res on 25th July; Swillington Ings on 1st and 3rd August; one was at Blacktoft Sands on 29th July and two on 30th August; at Tophill Low NR two were present on 23rd August, one on 25th September and two on 30th September and 1st October.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant, scarce in spring
Nearest populations are in Norway, followed by arctic Russia. Winters in southern Europe and Africa, passing through the county on passage.

There were very few records in the spring: one was at Saltend on 7th March, with two there on 18th April, moving to Paull Holme Strays on 22nd. One was at Blacktoft Sands from 14th to 18th April with two present from 26th to 30th May. A single was at Nosterfield NR on 13th May, three were at Brough Haven on 16th and two were at Swillington Ings on 26th May, with one remaining to 30th; another single appeared at Swillington on 10th–11th June.

It was a good autumn and most renowned ‘wader sites’ fared well. The first to return was at Beacon Ponds on 22nd–23rd July, one was at Spurn on 19th August and Long Bank on 26th. There were then almost daily sightings in the Spurn/Beacon Ponds area from early September to the last on 19th October, including eight on 30th September, seven on 4th October, five on 11th and four on 13th. At Flamborough singles moved south on 2nd and 6th August, as did four on 2nd September. One was at Northcliffe Marsh, Flamborough on 14th September. South Landing beach hosted three on 28th, one from 29th September to 1st October. One was at West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough on 11th August, with two on 15th. All of Filey’s records were in October: two

were at the Dams on 1st, on 3rd this number had increased to five, and the following day there were seven at East Lea. Four remained on 5th, and by 8th there was just the one, this being on the Brigg, finally, a single was at the Dams on 20th. At Scalby Lodge Pond a juvenile appeared on 9th September staying until the next day; also in September there was a single on the 15th and two on the 30th. The last bird was present on 15th October.

Along the Humber, small numbers were seen regularly at Paul Holme Strays, Sunk Island, and Brough Haven mainly from September to October, which included maximum counts of 12 at Brough Haven on 10th October and six at Paull Holme Strays on 12th. At Blacktoft Sands one to three were seen daily from 4th to 13th August, one was present 17th–19th September. Eight arrived on 29th increasing to a superb count of 26 at Blacktoft on 1st October, before whittling away to two on 14th October and a late bird on 11th November. Tophill Low also did well with singles on 21st and 30th August and 6th September, but the influx at the end of September and early October, produced the highest counts in the county: 22 on 28th had increased to 36 on 1st October, but soon reduced to a lone bird on 5th.

A single lingered at Fairburn Ings from 23rd–27th August and one to three present between 4th and 10th October. Up to eight were seen at Houghton Wetlands in the Dearne Valley during early October. In the Old Moor area singles were present from 24th to 26th August, on 25th and 28th September and 13th to 17th October. At Swillington Ings there was one on 29th August; three on 27th, one from 28th to 30th September; singles on 3rd and 6th October, with the last two on 10th October. Two flew north over Anglers CP on 29th September, with one present there on 5th October. Two were at Altofts on 21st September. Two were at Nosterfield Quarry from 4th–7th October, with odd singles seen during the autumn at Swine Moor, Potteric Carr, Scaling Dam, Beal Carr and Rother Valley CP. The last of the year was at Paull Holme Strays on 22nd November.

TEMMINCK’S STINT *Calidris temminckii* **A** 7,33,14,6,5
Scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 327 previous records (354 birds)
This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations in the county.

Six records, probably involving five birds and all confined to late May and early June. A single at Tophill Low on 20th May, presumably relocated to nearby Watton NR the following day (L&MB: EJH: JPH: RL *et al.*). The next appeared at Sunk Island on 24th May (JWa); one was at North Cave Wetlands from 27th May to 1st June (GAD *et al.*); a single at Tophill Low NR from 28th to 30th May (JB: EJH: PWI: RL *et al.*); and one on the nature reserve lake at Nosterfield on 3rd June (SPW).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant: one previous record

A superb adult was first noted in flight on a rising tide at 1300 hrs at Sammy’s Point, near Spurn on 8th September (JG *et al.*). Soon relocated, it stayed for an hour and gave good views to a small crowd before being pushed off north along the Humber by the tide. One of the finds of the year, this was only the second ever Yorkshire record; the first, at Blacktoft Sands on 17th September 1982, later moved to North Killingholme, Lincolnshire.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper •
John Grist

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* **A** 12,4,11,10,15
Scarce migrant; 156 previous records (166 birds)

This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county.

A good year, which included two spring records. An adult bird was present at Swillington Ings from 7th to 11th May (DIH: GYL: REL: ARo *et al.*) and one was at Blacktoft Sands on 18th and 19th May.

An adult was at Broomhill Flash on 17th and 18th July (JHe: JES: JWr *et al.*), and was followed by one at Cleasby GP on 20th and 21st July (SCB *et al.*). An adult was at Thorganby Ings on 30th and 31st July (RSS *et al.*). An adult was present briefly at Swillington Ings on 14th August (PRM), and a juvenile dropped in at the same site for an equally short stay, before being flushed by a Kestrel, on 10th September (PRM). One was at Dewsbury SF on 14th and 15th September (JHa *et al.*). A juvenile at Tophill Low NR on 19th September (PWI: RL: RSe *et al.*) was joined by a second juvenile on 20th (PWI: RL *et al.*) and both birds then stayed until 25th.

A juvenile was on Northcliffe Marsh, Flamborough on 20th September (RBa: PC). One was at Nosterfield LNR on 23rd and 24th September (SCI: SPW *et al.*), with another there on 20th October (TS: SPW *et al.*). A single was at Swinemoor on the outskirts of Beverley on 11th October. The last single was at Lingham Lake, Nosterfield from 27th to 29th October (MB: SPW *et al.*).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant; scarce in spring

A long-distance migrant from arctic Siberia, occurs in varying numbers each year on migration to and from south of the Mediterranean. Passage this year was very light.

Only a few spring records: one or two were in the Spurn/Beacon Ponds area from 12th May to 1st June and one was at Swillington Ings on 14th–15th May. One was at Blacktoft Sands on 11th and 12th May, with three there on 3rd June; also four at Paull Holme Strays on 18th May and Sunk Island on 11th June.

Autumn migration started early at Spurn; one on 27th June, followed by singles on 17th and 21st July and four were present on 19th August. September had singles on five dates with two on 28th and the last of the year was on the Humber on 6th October. At nearby Beacon Ponds, one to three were seen occasionally from late August to the end of September. Other birds seen along the coast, included one south at Flamborough on 17th July and one on South Landing beach on 31st August; two were at the Filey Dams on 16th August and three were at the Dams/East Lea on 16th September; one was at West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough on 11th August, with two there on 21st August; and one was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 25th September.

Along the Humber, one to six were at Paull Holme Strays between early August and 14th October; three were at Sunk Island on 29th August, one was at Brough Haven on 14th August with two there on 27th September. Up to eight were recorded almost daily at Blacktoft Sands from 20th July to the last on 20th October, but also included high counts of 13 on 25th September and 15 on 29th. Tophill Low NR also produced good numbers during the autumn, with one to nine almost daily between 12th August and 7th October. Nearby, Swine Moor held two on 11th–12th October, with one remaining to 13th. Further inland, Old Moor hosted a single on 6th September then records came on a further 21 days to 11th October, including ten juveniles on 23rd September. After a single at Nosterfield NR on 19th September, there were four present on 21st and one on 6th October. Two were at Potteric Carr on 5th–6th September; two were at Fairburn Ings on 5th and one flew west on 10th September; one flew west at Southfield Res on 15th September and finally, one was at Swillington Ings on 25th–26th September.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* **A**
Amber list: uncommon and declining passage migrant and winter visitor to rocky coasts
Breeds inland in Scandinavian tundra or further north on Arctic coastlines from eastern Canada to Siberia, wintering on rocky coasts. The national decline in wintering numbers has stabilized with birds tending to remain further north.

At South Gare most counts were quite low, with a maximum of 48 on 21st April. Small numbers were occasionally seen in the Whitby area, with a high count of six at Whitby on 23rd November. At Scarborough the highest January count was just 34 in the harbour on 16th, 40 were there on 19th March, with 11 still lingering on 18th April. The last record of the spring was seven in Jackson’s Bay on 19th April. The earliest record of returning birds was two north at Cromer Point on 25th August. Numbers then increased gradually in the area towards the late winter period, with peak high tide harbour counts of 42 on 10th November, 51 on 23rd November and 30 on 7th December.

Filey had a first half maximum of 36 on 24th February, after the end of April there were regular single figure counts, although 15 on 3rd May presumably related to late migrants moving north. The autumn build-up began with 12 on 11th October, and 40 were present on the Brigg by 9th November.

In the first quarter, 45 on 6th January was the maximum at Flamborough. In April, there were nine on 9th and seven on 21st, and May had four on 12th. Singles on 21st and 31st July were early to return, while two singles were seen in August and up to ten were around in September. Small numbers were present daily from October, with a maximum of 19 on 10th November.

Single figures were recorded around Bridlington in the winter months, especially around the harbour, and up to two were at Barmston on three dates in October/November and four were at Skipsea on 10th November.

Singles were recorded at Spurn on 12th January and 4th March and in the autumn, singles were regular, with two on 3rd November and four on 10th November.

There were three inland records: one was at Old Moor on 12th May and was seen briefly the next day at Broomhill. In the autumn, singles at Hatfield Moor on 11th September and Old Moor on 11th November.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* **A**
Red list: rare breeder on moors; common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 2/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 13300: GB threshold 5600 winter, 2000 passage
Has been declining nationally for a decade and now at its lowest ever WeBS count level, and numbers on the Humber estuary were again low this year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	11,199	10,632	14,327	3892	5078	12	6312	10,404	5824	9166	10,785	2295
South Tees	0	0	2	2	57	4	43	76	118	89	0	5

The highest individual counts along the Humber included an impressive 30,000 at Paull Holme Strays on 1st February, 10,000 between Patrington and Easington on 18th March, 7250 there on 4th November and 8025 on at Spurn on 20th July. Up river, Blacktoft recorded a maximum of 380 on 29th July. Coastal records were unremarkable, Filey’s top count was 72 on 26th February and Flamborough had 122 on 29th September. Southerly offshore passage included just a few off Scarborough, while at Filey: 32 flew south on 13th July, followed by 168 the following day and 26 on 16th and another 33 on 18th August. Passage at Flamborough in July peaked at 223 on 14th, but was generally lacklustre. There were a few more on average in August, but 80 on 2nd and 94 on 25th were the below par highs. At Spurn, a total of 2122 flew south and 369 came in off the sea between 6th July and 24th November. Passage peaked between mid-July and mid-September. The highest counts were 168 on 17th July, 1308 on 2nd September and 127 on 5th November.

The only inland winter count of note was 100 at North Duffield Carrs on 26th February. Passage in the spring was most obvious during May and in the Nosterfield area, between 10th and 20th a very large movement took place, with a minimum of 1919 moving through (1135 at Nosterfield NR, 598 Lingham Lake and 186 at Flasks Lake). Maximum day counts included 310 on 13th May and 482 on 19th May. This passage was reflected at other inland sites, although on a smaller scale. At Swillington Ings, up to 30 were recorded on several days during the middle of May, but at least 180 passed through on 19th. A maximum of 52 were seen at Old Moor on 12th May, another 40 were on Hatfield Moors the same day and 12 were at both Whiteholme and Ringstone Edge on 19th May. Winterset also recorded its spring maximum on 19th when 12 flew through, as did Redmires Res with 16, while the top count from Potteric Carr was 14 on 10th.

Autumn passage was very light between July and October, with very few sites recording more than single-figure counts. Tophill Low fared reasonably well with ten to 40 present throughout and a maximum of 47 on 27th August. The only other counts of any note were 11 on Hatfield Moors on 11th August, surpassed by 20 there on 25th August, ten at Fairburn Ings on 19th August, 17 at Old Moor in September and 40 at Rother Valley CP on 27th September.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* **A** 1,1,3,3,4
Rare migrant; 24 previous records (22 birds)

Breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada, wintering in South America. A scarce visitor to the UK.

An excellent year with five records, presumed to relate to four different individuals: the first, photographed on the lagoon at Patrington Haven on 29th July (BR), then relocated to the Lincolnshire side of the Humber the following day. Presumably, the same then moved to Stone Creek on 9th August (JWa). Thereafter, one was present in fields just west of Blacktoft Sands on 23rd/24th September (MJP *et al.*) and Flamborough’s first-ever frequented the golf course on 27th September and remained until 29th (PC *et al.*). Finally, a first-winter associated with a 5000-strong Golden Plover flock at Paull Holme Strays on 12th October (RBa).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* **A**

Red list: uncommon passage migrant & scarce winter visitor; has occasionally bred

England supports a very small population and most records relate to passage birds from Fennoscandia and Russia that winter in Africa, although over-wintering has been increasingly noted in the county.

There was a good wintering population in the Lower Derwent Valley which peaked at 100 at North Duffield Carrs on 22nd February and 2nd April. Two at Paull Holme Strays from 1st –25th February and one at Swinemoor on 17th February were the only other winter records.

Small numbers of birds moved through the county in the spring: at Swillington Ings the first was seen on 28th and 30th March, one was there on 9th, then one or two were present between 14th and 23rd April. Singles were at Pulfin Bog on 6th and 9th April; one in the Old Moor/Broomhill area from 10th to 18th and another there on 26th April. At North Cave Wetlands, one arrived on 13th and there were up to three then to late May. Three were at Blacktoft Sands on 9th April and lone birds were seen in April at Winterset on 15th, Thrybergh Tip on 19th, Nosterfield NR on 22nd, and Southfield Res on 27th. In May singles were at Potteric Carr on 4th, Hatfield Moors on 5th and Paull Holme Strays on 18th. At Spurn there were just three singles in the spring on 30th April, 13th May and 8th June.

There were a few singles at Blacktoft Sands in June, then seen daily from early July to the year end. Numbers peaked from late July to late August, including counts of 50 on 26th July; 76 on 7th and 56 on 13th August. Unusually, there were still 20 present at Blacktoft on 7th December. Tophill Low also had a very good autumn; the first arrived on 1st August and then seen daily to early October, with high counts of 35 on 21st August and 44 on 6th September.

Nosterfield NR had regular sightings between 12th August and 2nd November, with a maximum of ten on 21st September. At Old Moor, there were records from 54 days between August and October, with a high of nine on 16th October. Fairburn Ings only had singles on seven dates. Up to five were noted at North Cave Wetlands in the autumn, whereas Potteric Carr only had three records, with a best of five on 30th September. There were also records of occasional singles from Leventhorpe Hall Pond and Scaling Dam. Along the coast most sites recorded small numbers in the autumn; Scarborough only had singles, Filey's best count was five on several dates in August and Flamborough had a high of seven on 25th August. West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough attracted on 15th August. Generally there were no more than four in the Spurn area, with a high of 20 at Long Bank Marsh on 22nd August and the last single on 1st November.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from northern Fennoscandia east to Siberia and winters from maritime Western Europe south to Africa.

A wintering species that is widespread throughout the county, particularly the lower lying marshy areas in East, South and West Yorkshire. The first migrants usually appear in mid-September, wintering birds then remain until spring and most have left by mid-April. Records received from 45 sites, although most had only single birds or occasional twos. Exceptions were six at Swillington Ings at both ends of the year; up to three were on The Pol, Winterset from January to March, with four there on 29th December. At Ringstone Edge, there were four on 24th January and two on 27th March. Four were at North Ings, Mexborough on 31st December. In the Spurn area, there were up to two in the spring and in the autumn, there were regular migrants along the peninsula, after the first two of the autumn on 18th September. The maximum of four came on 29th September and four were regular at Beacon Ponds from October to the year-end. October records from Flamborough included a best of three on 13th.

Late spring birds included singles at Spurn on 16th, Filey and Cromer Point, Scarborough on 19th and at Tophill Low NR from 26th April to 3rd May. The earliest to return were singles at Dewsbury SF on 4th and at North Duffield Carrs on 5th September.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* **A**

Scarce breeding resident; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 37/222

Although nominate *gallinago* breed in Yorkshire, numbers appear to be declining due to drainage of lowland habitat and changes to upland environments. BBS data shows some increase in England since 1994. Numbers increase in winter as migrants from the boreal and subarctic zone move south.

Counts were generally quite low in both winter periods and during autumn passage, with no treble-figure counts. The best totals came from lowland wetlands and included 71 at Swillington Ings on 13th February, 28 at Winterset Res on 25th March, 85 at Fairburn Ings in August, 47 at Cononley Ings on 12th September, 75 at Pulfin Bog on 6th October, 70 at Old Moor on 14th October and 36 at Blacktoft Sands on 21st November.

Although 'drumming' birds were reported from many sites, particularly moorland edges, there were very few reports of confirmed breeding, which was probably due to the very wet summer.

The best coastal counts were during the autumn; Filey recorded a maximum of 30 on 27th October and Flamborough had 20 on 19th August. Twenty-eight were at West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough on 15th August and 25 were grounded at Spurn on 8th September. Passage at Spurn between August and November logged 179 south and 72 in off the sea, with high counts of 24 on 20th, 25 on 27th August, 35 on 8th and 22 on 19th September.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 4/222

The main breeding areas are Fennoscandia and Russia, and immigrants from these areas are noted on the Yorkshire coast and winter in woodlands. Small numbers breed. BBS is not accurate for recording this species, but nationally it is thought to be declining rapidly, hence Amber list status.

Wintering birds were widespread in ones and twos at both ends of the year. The only higher counts during the first winter period related to four at Tophill Low between 31st January and 13th February and five at Spurn on 25th January where singles came in off on 26th January and 23rd February.

Roding birds were reported from Guisborough Forest (four), Potteric Carr (four), Winterset (two), Ryedale (six), Garbutt Wood (four), at least 15 at several sites in the Halifax area, and at least 12 at eight locations in the lower Pennines around Sheffield. Elsewhere, singles reported from Barnbow Common, Harewood Park, Ripon Loop and Hatfield Moors. In the York area, singles were roding at Allerthorpe, Skipwith Common and Strensall, with two at Yearsley Moor.

The autumn immigration was typically most noticeable along the coast. Between 22nd October and 16th November, four singles came in off the sea at South Gare and 11 were present there on 10th November. Small numbers were seen at Scarborough in November, with a maximum count of five in off the sea on 5th. At Filey the first of the autumn were two on 13th October and records were then regular, with a best of eight on 24th October and up to five were present in the first half of November. Flamborough had its first back on 20th September, a total of 19 bird/days were recorded in October, with a maximum of six on 24th. Up to four were logged on seven dates in November, with maxima of 19 on 5th and 12 on 13th. At Spurn, the first of the autumn arrived on 28th September, with three the following day, then almost daily from 18th October to the end of November. High counts of grounded birds included 29 on 24th and 24 on 25th October and 15 on 13th November. Many birds were seen coming in off the sea, including 17 on 5th and 28 on 13th November. One in off the sea on 3rd November was attacked by a Pomarine Skua and drowned. In December, occasional sightings at Spurn included three on 4th and two on 17th, with singles on five other dates. North of the Obs recording area, there were 21 between Kilnsea and Easington on 11th November.



BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* **A**
Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*limosa*): rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.
BBS o/222. WeBS Status – Int. threshold 470: GB threshold 150
Counts on the Humber regularly exceed the GB threshold. The increase in the UK wintering population of the Icelandic *islandica* race continues; no more so than on the Humber estuary which became the UK’s second most important site in 2007. Flocks seen on the Yorkshire side are sometimes birds visiting from the main south bank population. The subspecies *limosa* has occasionally bred in the Lower Derwent Valley.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	93	174	153	54	0	0	29	886	421	734	97	87

The numbers along the north side of the Humber fluctuated as visiting birds from Lincolnshire augmented the totals. The highest counts came from Paull Holme Strays: 175 on 21st January, 320 on 4th February, 220 on 9th March, 500 on 5th April, 981 in fields to the east of there on 26th July and 18th August, 230 on 22nd September, 655 on 7th October, but just two on 2nd November. Blacktoft Sands also held good numbers, with up to 30 in the first winter quarter, then passage birds raised the total to 140 on 19th April and the last of the spring were four on 4th June. The autumn maxima peaked at 309 on 13th August, and up to 70 were present during November and December. Smaller numbers were recorded from along the Humber; the higher counts included 54 at Stone Creek on 25th February, 347 at Saltend on 14th March, 175 on 16th September between Paull Holme Strays and Stone Creek; 301 on 24th November and 240 on 9th December at Spurn.

Most coastal records involved migrant birds passing in the spring and autumn. At Spurn, birds moving south in April included seven on 11th, 77 (plus 79 in off the sea) on 21st and 80 on 22nd. In May, ten flew south on 21st. Autumn passage logged 71 south and three in off between 14th July and 13th October, with high counts of 30 on 14th July, 11 on 15th August and 12 on 13th October. West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough had two on 30th and 31st July, increasing to nine on 1st August and 19 on 2nd. At Flamborough the four sightings referred to southbound sea-watch records: one on 14th July, one on 2nd, three on 12th and three on 13th August. Filey recorded just nine fly south, including seven on 14th August. At Filey Dams records spanned 14th July and 3rd September, including five from 25th to 31st August and 11 on 3rd September. At Scarborough one flew south on 5th August and presumably the 11 from Filey were at Scalby Lodge Pond from 3rd to 5th September.

Away from the coast and the Humber, 90 flew north over Bubwith Ings on 4th January. In the Lower Derwent Valley, a small wintering flock was present at North Duffield Carrs and Wheldrake Ings, which increased during spring passage to a maximum of 80 on 17th April. In the Old Moor area, recorded on 94 days in all months except January, June and December, with a maximum of 18 flying west on 4th July. Singles were present at Tophill Low on 13th March and 27th–29th April; then in the autumn, recorded regularly from 5th August to 2nd October, usually single figures or low teens, but with a maximum of 21 on 7th September. A late bird present on 23rd November and 1st December. At Fairburn Ings, one was recorded on 3rd January and five on 25th. In April, one or two were seen from 6th to 9th and up to four from 14th to 27th, 16 were present on 11th May and singles were recorded on three dates in June. July produced records on six dates, ranging from one to 15. Sightings of an adult on 6th August were followed by eight further sightings of up to eight throughout the month and singles were recorded on six dates in September, with one or two between 2nd and 10th October. Swillington Ings also produced a good series of records; up to five were almost daily in April, with highs of eleven on 17th and 29 on 25th. One was present from 30th April to 2nd May, then eight were seen on 14th and the last two of spring on 19th May. Five records in July included six on 21st, while seven flew over on 12th and nine did the same on 23rd August; there were four singles to the last on 30th September.

At Winterset, two were present on 2nd April, then up to two in the autumn on five dates, but a flock of 28 flew over on 12th August. There were records on 15 dates from North Cave Wetlands, with best of eight on 23rd May and 17th July. There were a series of flyovers at Southfield Res, including six on 27th July, three on 10th August and nine on 20th September. There were four records from Potteric Carr, one on 1st April, 24 on 25th April, seven on 7th August and one on 3rd September. Elsewhere, four were at Rother Valley CP on 12th April, one was at Otley Wetland on 22nd April, seven were at Hellifield Flash on 24th April, up to 27 were present at Smallways in late April, three were at Watton NR on 5th May and one was at Auckley Common on 10th May. At Nosterfield NR, singles seen on 12th May and 21st–29th September, seven were at Farnhill Ings on 26th June and one was at Scaling Sam on 8th July. Eight were at Pulfin Bog on 14th July, 12 flew over Rawmarsh on 22nd August, ten flew over Wilsic on 5th September, one was at Silverwood Lagoon on 13th September and one flew over Oxenhope on 26th September.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland. BBS 1/222
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 620
Breeds in the arctic tundra, the nominate race *lapponica* wintering on estuaries around the North Sea. Winters on the Humber, but many birds probably leave in February for the Wadden Sea. Has declined dramatically nationally in the last five years, and numbers on the Tees were particularly low.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	504	581	174	138	84	0	1017	1248	354	762	846	155
South Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	23	6	0

The outer Humber is the place to see the largest concentrations, particularly Spurn. In the first quarter, 120 on 28th January was the best count, with 223 on 29th May the spring peak. After a short absence during mid-June, returning birds started to appear from late in the month. Numbers built to 400 in August and then a yearly maximum of 1344 on 5th September. Other high counts included 1200 on 10th October, 1000 on 24th November and 650 on two dates in December. Visible passage was noted in the spring and autumn: between 25th April and 26th May 89 headed east and 116 flew north, including 67 east and 115 north on 26th May. Autumn passage featured 106 south and 101 in off between 2nd July and 24th November. Highest counts were 45 on 18th September and 60 on 12th November. Good numbers were present at Patrington Haven, with a maximum of 650 on 12th August and 725 on 4th November. At Paull Holme Strays, numbers were generally less than 100, although there were 150 on 21st January and 704 on 1st February. Up river, 70 were between Faxfleet and Brough Haven on 1st January and up to two at Blacktoft Sands between 10th and 19th August.

Along the coast, Flamborough recorded a maximum of five on five dates in spring; up to four headed south on nine dates in July/August and single figures were recorded from mid-September to the year-end. Nine were at Atwick on 12th August, while Filey had just three records during the last week of April, then the next record was of 23 south on 14th July, followed by 19 bird/days in August and six in September. One or two present at Scarborough in April with the last there on 18th May. There were several seen on migration in August and September, including nine on 29th August.

This species was much scarcer inland the its close relative. At Swillington Ings, one flew over on 26th March; three were there on 29th April, increasing to five on 30th and eight on 2nd and 3rd May. Two more were present on 5th and one flew west on 21st September. Two were present on Hatfield Moors on 25th April. Four flew east at Southfield Res on 14th May, nine were at Whiteholme, Halifax on 20th September. Elsewhere, singles were at Ringstone Edge on 6th March, Tarn Outflow, Malham on 28th April, Potteric Carr from 29th April to 2nd May, Pugney’s CP on 29th April and Thrybergh CP on 29th April and 3rd May. Also singles were seen at Wheldrake Ings from 30th April–2nd May, with two present on 3rd, Fairburn Ings from 29th April to 6th May, Rother Valley CP on 5th May, Wombwell Ings on 3rd/4th May, 2nd and 9th October and 24th and 26th November. One was at Tophill Low NR between 18th September and 4th October, with a second present between 20th September and 1st October, and another appeared on 22nd November.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* **A**
Red list: uncommon to fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant. BBS 1/222
Breeds from northeast Greenland east to Siberia, with a small population in northern Scotland, migrating overland and along the coast to winter in Africa.

A bird with an injured leg was present in coastal fields at Saltwick Nab on 31st January and 11th March, apparently for its second winter; again reported on 21st December. The first spring arrivals were a single at Swinemoor and three at Southfield Res on 12th April. Spring passage was light in the Scarborough area, with just eight records of one to three between 16th April and early June. At Filey 44 were logged between 21st April and 15th June, including five on 12th May. The first arrived at Flamborough on 25th April and a good series of records there in May included 14 on 5th and 11 on 6th May. At Atwick 14 flew north in the spring, including six on 23rd April. Present daily at Spurn between 15th April and 7th June, with highs of 15 on 13th and 17th May; also visible passage recorded 24 south, 41 out east and seven in off the sea.

Small numbers were present at Sunk Island during the spring, with a maximum of 26 on 11th May. Other notable counts along the Humber included 18 at Patrington Haven on 13th May and eight at Brough Haven on 21st May. North Cave Wetlands recorded 18 in spring, including 11 on 5th May. Just ones and twos were seen at Blacktoft. At Wheldrake Ings, a roost in late April and early May gave counts of 60+ on 25th April and 1st

May and 55 on 2nd May. Nineteen passed through Southfield Res to 31st May, although there were never more than three together, while nearby Potteric Carr recorded 21, including six on 4th May and 11 on 11th May. At Fairburn Ings, three were seen on 25th April and singles on 5th and 10th May. The Winterset area had eighteen birds between 21st April and 9th June, with a maximum of five on 29th April. Thirty-two passed through Swillington Ings between 15th April and 12th May, including six on 26th April and again on 8th and 11th May. Old Moor’s spring maximum was five on 10th May and Nosterfield’s equivalent was seven on 9th May. No more than two passed through Tophill Low NR, Pugney’s CP, Fly Flats, Green Withens, Whiteholme, Ringstone Edge, Beal Carrs, Reeth, Redmires Res, Thrybergh CP, Rother Valley CP and Scaling Dam.

Return passage was under way from mid-June and most obvious on the coast. Small numbers were seen passing Kettleness in July and August, including 11 on 6th and 16 on 8th August. A light passage south at Scarborough included a peak count of 17 on 5th August. At Filey, 208 flew south between 14th July and late August, with a maximum count of 51 on 5th August. A minimum of 183 flew south at Flamborough during the same period with 59 on 19th August and the last on 26th October. Recorded almost daily at Spurn between 19th June and 21st September, after which singles were seen on 4th and 6th October, with the last two of the year on 13th October. Between 6th July and 21st September, 599 flew south and 122 came in off the sea. Passage peaked from mid-July to mid-August and gave high counts of 53 on 24th, 112 on 25th July and 74 on 12th August.

Inland, autumn passage was much lighter than in the spring. Fourteen were recorded at Swillington Ings between 14th July and 1st October, with a maximum of five on 14th July, at North Cave Wetlands four were seen on 14th July and one on 12th August. At Fairburn Ings, eight singles were recorded between 14th July and 23rd August, with two on 19th August. Singles were seen over Ringstone Edge on 29th July, 9th August and two on 26th August. One flew west at Southfield Res on 19th August, one over Cold Edge Dams on 6th September; occasional singles were also recorded at Eccup Res, Otley, Ulrome, Tophill Low NR, Hornsea Mere, Blacktoft Sands, Thrybergh CP, Redmires Res, and Pugney’s CP. The last consisted of a single at North Cave Wetlands on 30th October.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 105/222: -31% (-36) 1994-2007, -5% (+3) 2006-07
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 8500: GB threshold 1500
Breeds from Ireland to central Siberia, including both upland and lowland Yorkshire. Breeding numbers continue to decline regionally and nationally, hence its UK BAP status. The wintering population has remained stable for the last two years nationally, and numbers on the Humber and South Tees were slightly up in the early months.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2344	3175	1077	2731	189	26	2301	2259	1780	1884	1442	662
South Tees	21	37	27	9	8	3	52	57	108	46	38	19

The largest tallies on the Humber were on WeBS count days, with the bulk of the birds between Paull Holme Strays and Easington; the highest from an individual site was 1469 on 1st February. The maximum count at Spurn during the year was just 242 in December. High counts along the coast included 62 at Scarborough on 6th March; Filey had their highest ever numbers, when 130 on 29th January had increased to 148 on 15th February and at the end of the year 125 were present on 30th October. Flamborough recorded 33 on 21st January. Migration along the coast saw 59 south at Long Nab on 4th July, with 20 south on 1st July the best count from Filey. Spring passage was good at Spurn with 325 out, 24 south and 47 in off the sea. This movement peaked from mid to late April, with high counts of 96 on 15th, 52 on 18th and 32 on 25th April. In the autumn 108 flew south and 21 came in off the sea between 1st July and 6th November. The best counts were 30 on 1st and 17 on 6th July.

Inland winter and early spring counts included good numbers in the Bradford area: 400 at Burley on 1st January, 280 at Askwith and 200 at Otley Wetlands in February; at Cononley Ings, numbers built up in February to a maximum of 430 on 26th February and 1st March. At Lingham Water, Nosterfield, there were 147 on 3rd January, Fairburn Ings saw an early year maximum of 50 in February, Knotford Nook had 60 in February, 40 were at Tophill Low on 25th February. Towards spring 65 were at Swillington Ings on 1st March; 89 were at Midhopestones on 9th March, while 30 were at Walshaw Dean on 14th March.

Breeding reports came from Cononley Ings (nine confirmed pairs), Round Hill, Burley Moor, Glovershaw, Cold Edge, Heptonstall Moor, Castle Carr Road, Whiteholme, Barnside, Whitwell Moor, Broomhead Moor, Dukes Road, Wharnccliffe Chase, Redmires Res, Slingsby Carr, Shaw Rigg, Ampleforth, Middlethorpe Ings near York and Kirbymoorside. In addition, there were several pairs at Winterset and bred at several sites near Scarborough.

Inland, autumn passage was generally light, with notable counts including 28 west at Southfield Res on 26th June, 12 through Old Moor on 3rd July and 11 west at Winterset on 6th July. Up to 70 birds roosted at Swillington Ings in July, with 50 still present in August and 80 were present at Tophill Low in November and December.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder in north and west; passage migrant elsewhere. BBS 8/222
Breeds on stony upland rivers and reservoirs in the county, migrating south to winter as far as southern Africa. Passage includes birds moving to and from breeding grounds in Scotland and Fennoscandia. Has been declining across all European countries since the 1990s.

The first arrived early at Skinningrove on 24th March, with a more widespread arrival from early April. Spring passage continued until late May and autumn passage took place between early July and early October, with the last single at High Eske from 29th-31st October. Widespread on passage throughout the county, with most fresh water sites recording one to four regularly in both seasons. There were very few notable counts away from the breeding sites, the best being five at Southfield Res on 3rd May, five at Filey on 12th May, six at Thrybergh CP on 5th July, 12 at Cloughton Pond, Scarborough on 16th July, six at Beal Carrs on 28th July, up to six were at Leventhorpe and Swillington Ings in July and August. Six were at Central Science Laboratory, York on 21st August and ten were at Old Moor on 18th August. Breeding was reported at many upland reservoirs, including two pairs at Redmires Res, three pairs at Langsett Res, one pair at Underbank Res. In the Halifax area breeding was proven at Fly Flats and Walshaw Dean and almost certainly took place at many other sites, with pairs present throughout the summer. In the Bradford area, two pairs bred at Warley Moor Res, with additional pairs at Kex Gill Quarry, Thornton Moor Res and Strid Wood. The highest count of the year came from Grimwith Res, where there were 19 present on 23rd May and several pairs reported breeding.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius* **A** 0,0,1,0,2
Vagrant; 12 previous records (ten birds)
It proved to be a good year, with two records. An adult in breeding plumage was at Skelton Lake, New Swillington Ings on 26th May (PRM *et al.*). The second record also referred to an adult in breeding plumage, at Wykeham Lakes, near Scarborough on 6th July, where it remained until 19th (NWA *et al.*). The only other record this decade related to the single at Easington Lagoon on 23rd October 2005.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant, more numerous in autumn: some over-winter
Breeds in the boreal zone from Norway eastwards, occurring on passage at inland waters and gravel pits and occasionally in winter on freshwater streams.

There were records in every month and from all corners of the county. During the first winter period no more than two were observed at: Guisborough, Scarborough, Filey Dams, Potteric Carr, Leventhorpe, Pulfin Bog, Cononley Ings, Winterset, Cooper Bridge SF, Dewsbury SF, Aldwarke SF, Rother Valley CP, Silverwood Lagoon, Thrybergh CP, Skipton SF, Walbutt Lock on the Pocklington Canal and North Duffield Carrs. In addition there were three at both Old Moor and Molescroft Farms in East Yorkshire, up to four at Blackburn Meadows and up to six were present over the first quarter at Knostrop SF. It was often difficult to distinguish between late wintering birds and the first true migrants in spring. Obvious migrants were seen at coastal sites, with singles on three days at Scarborough during April; Filey had seven singles between 7th April and 5th May, while Flamborough had singles on 23rd April and 18th/19th May. At Spurn there were six singles in April and one in May.

Return migration started in early June, with singles at Spurn and Tophill Low NR, a more widespread arrival saw three at Flamborough and singles were at Spurn and Potteric Carr all on 16th. After this there were regular sightings across the county at sewage farms, gravel pits and other fresh water bodies until early October. The largest autumn gatherings were from Tophill Low NR, where 14 on 26th July had increased to a very impressive 37 on 5th August, but had decreased to five by the end of August. However, there was another influx on 8th September, when 15 were logged. Other notable counts included: four at Potteric Carr on 28th June; six at Beacon Ponds on 16th; four at Flamborough on 22nd; ten at Blacktoft Sands on 26th July; six at Binnington Carr, Scarborough on 10th; eight at Pulfin Bog on 11th; six at Filey Dams on 23rd and seven at North Cave on 24th August. Notable counts during September included 13 at Old Moor on 3rd and four at Skelton Lake on 8th.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant; occasionally over-winters

A passage migrant from northern Scandinavia and subarctic regions further east. Blacktoft Sands remains the premier site for this species and ever present from January through to late April. A party of six was wintering on 12th January, but numbers increased in the spring, with ten on 17th March and 9th April. A late individual was present on 25th May and the first returning bird was typically early on 11th June, after which recorded almost daily to the end of the year. An early high count came in mid-summer, when there were 15 on 24th June and this was followed by daily counts in the teens to early November, with one to four then to the year end. Numbers peaked at 27 on 30th September and 24 on 12th and 16th October.

Elsewhere, spring records included one at Watton NR on 28th March, six at Beal Carrs on 6th April and one at Bank Island on 22nd April. A flock 11 on Old Fall Flash on 25th April was the largest ever gathering at Flamborough. One at Beacon Ponds on 16th June was the first of just eight singles in the Beacon Ponds/Spurn area to the last on 30th September. One was at Scaling Dam on 2nd July, one flew over Tarn Moss, Malham on 9th July, up to six were recorded regularly at Tophill Low NR from 15th August to 28th September and two were at Flamborough on 25th August. In September, three were at Scalby Lodge Pond on 13th, with two remaining the next day, one was at Filey from 14th–17th and singles flew over there on 22nd and 24th. A single was at Wheldrake Ings from 20th–22nd, one was at Broomhill Flash from 17th to 30th September and singles were recorded at Fairburn Ings on 30th September/1st October. One was at Brough Haven on 27th October and finally, one was at Scaling Dam on 25th November.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters

Breeds in north and west Scotland east through northern Scandinavia to Kamchatka. Although wintering in the UK in record numbers, birds generally pass through the county to winter further south. Five at Sunk Island on 1st January and one at Cononley Ings on 10th January were the only winter records. Small numbers moved through the county in the spring on the way to their breeding grounds. The Spurn area had one or two on eight dates between 19th April and late May, while Filey recorded singles on three dates, with a maximum of 11 on 14th May. One or two were seen on several dates in April and May at Sunk Island, while at Paull Holme Strays, one was present on 21st April, then five on 7th May decreasing to three the next day; Blacktoft Sands recorded a mere four singles, all in May. Tophill Low also had four singles, starting with the first on 12th April and singles were recorded at Swillington Ings on seven days in spring. At Potteric Carr, singles were seen on three days in late April and up to five were there from 1st–10th May. There were several records from Hatfield Moors, with a maximum of three on 12th May. Other occasional singles were recorded from Old Moor, Winterset, Southfield Res, Pugney’s CP, Rother Valley CP, Watton NR, Otley Wetlands and Scaling Dam.

Returning birds started to arrive back from late June and passage was widespread at suitable wetlands until late October, with passage peaking in August and September. Tophill Low proved to be the prime site, 17 on 7th August had increased to 27 on 12th and 49 on 17th; there was a further increase to a very impressive 62 on 3rd September, after which there was a steady decrease to the last single on 4th October. At Blacktoft Sands, high counts included ten on 12th August, increasing to 30 on 22nd August. Sunk Island recorded an excellent 45 on 14th July, while autumn counts at Spurn were surprisingly low, with a maximum of just six on 17th July. Elsewhere along the coast, 16 at Flamborough on 21st August was a good local tally. Maximum counts from other regular wader sites included: 12 at Paull Holme Strays on 8th August; 11 at Swillington Ings on 19th August; five at Beal Carrs on 22nd August; four at Potteric Carr on 28th August and 16th September; and ten at Old Moor on 7th September. Late records included one at Old Moor on 26th October, and a very late bird at Fly Flats near Halifax on 9th December.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* **A**
Amber list: scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn

Like the previous species, breeds in the boreal zone, but does breed in northern Scotland and winters further south in the Tropics. It proved to be a quiet year, which started with two at Filey Dams on 25th April, with one remaining to 28th. Singles were present at North Cave and Fairburn Ings on 27th April, while Swillington Ings had lone birds on 28th April, 3rd and 14th May. One was at Nosterfield LNR from 28th April to 5th May, three were at Huggin Carr on 2nd May, one was at Smallways on 4th and one was at Redmires Res on 6th and 7th May. In the Old Moor area singles were present on 4th, 8th–17th and 27th May. One at Wheldrake Ings on 9th had increased to two on 11th. One was at Dewsbury SF on 12th May and one at Swine Moor from 13th to 15th May was joined by two

more on 14th, the same day that one was at Scalby Lodge. Other May singles were at Melbourne on 13th and North Cave Wetlands on 17th and 21st. In the autumn, two at Flamborough on 16th July was the year’s only site record, while date-wise Spurn did one better with singles on 21st July and 23rd August. One was at Swillington Ings on 22nd July and singles were at Old Moor on 24th July and 20th August. One was at Paull Holme Strays on 8th August, while Tophill Low NR had singles on 11th, 18th and 29th August, and two on 3rd September. Filey hosted a single from 22nd to 27th August, and one was at West Carlton Floods, Aldbrough on 19th August. In September, two were at Hornsea Mere on 10th followed a single there on 18th, one was at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd and a late bird was at Buckton on 30th.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 12/222

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1300: GB threshold 1200
Nationally wintering numbers have fallen for three years, and counts on the Humber in winter 2006/07 were the lowest for 10 years. Small numbers breed in saltmarsh along the Humber, only a few elsewhere on grassy upland sites and some wet meadows, but nationally the breeding population is also declining.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1455	1928	1039	1883	141	2	1254	2355	3212	2575	1518	718
South Tees	318	324	244	125	0	0	72	87	247	248	287	379

Numbers using the Humber were on a par with 2006, with the largest counts 834 between Paull and Stone Creek on 25th February, 1095 there on 16th September and 1040 on 7th October. Patrington Haven held 848 on 12th August and 1088 on 16th September and at Spurn there were 1500 on 27th August and 1659 on 5th September. Blacktoft Sands recorded its highest total in September, with 200 on 17th. Although relatively common along the coast, there were only small numbers during May and June. The largest concentrations at Scarborough were in the Scalby Mills/ Jackson’s Bay area, with a yearly high of 200 on 24th February. At Filey a count of 82 constituted the maximum on 14th February, while autumn passage logged 31 south on 12th and 79 on 14th August. Fifty-seven on 21st February was the highest count at Flamborough, apart from passage totals with 42 south on 14th July and 105 similarly on 2nd August. At Sewerby up to 50 were present in the winter months. In the autumn at Spurn: 531 flew south and 132 came in off the sea between 6th July and 2nd September and included 65 on 14th July, 67 on 14th August and 256 on 2nd September. Away from the Humber and coast, small numbers (one to six) were widespread across the county from January to May, with lesser numbers after the breeding season. Maxima included: 45 at Watton NR on 1st January; 150 at Pulfin Bog on 2nd, 25 at Southfield Res on 4th, 53 at North Cave on 11th January; 36 at Skelton Lake in February and 21 there in November; 25 at Tophill Low NR on 18th March and 54 at Old Moor on 15th April. There were few decent counts after the breeding season. Breeding reports came from Blacktoft Sands (four pairs), Potteric Carr (four pairs), Fairburn Ings (four pairs), Cononley Ings (two pairs), Winterset (one pair), Swillington Ings (two pairs), Fly Flats (one pair), North Cave Wetlands (two pairs), Old Moor (two pairs) and Strid Wood (one pair).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1500: GB threshold 500
Birds breeding in northeast Canada, Greenland and Fennoscandia winter on rocky or coarse sand coasts, and sections of estuary with fucoid covered cobbles from the North Sea south to West Africa, although they can roost in dockland areas. The national trend shows an increase for the past four years.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	24	70	8	136	60	13	13	45	0	28	10	0
South Tees	108	214	167	115	11	11	26	21	39	137	163	141

Along the coast, the biggest counts were along the Tees, detailed in the table. At Whitby, 57 were recorded on 2nd March and 45 were at Runswick Bay on 28th October. At Scarborough the best counts were 58 on 3rd March and 56 on 23rd November, while Filey’s early year maximum was 35 on 24th March and no more than 30 in the latter half. Flamborough had a good early maximum of 82 on 21st January; in the latter half of the



Turnstone o
Ray Scally

year good numbers built from August, with 107 on 31st and up to 50 present in October and November. Forty were in Bridlington harbour on 9th April, while to the south Barmston recorded 50 on 2nd February. The highest counts at Spurn were 72 on 15th April and 96 on 3rd September. Coastal offshore passage in the autumn produced 47 south off Filey on 14th August and 273 flew south and 40 came in off at Spurn between 12th July and 24th September; the best totals were 25 on 25th July and 61 on 2nd September.

Small numbers were seen along the Humber throughout the year, with a peak of just 14 at Paull Holme Strays on 24th March. Passage at inland sites came predominantly in May: at Potteric Carr one on 1st, three on 3rd, one on 12th, four on 18th and one on 19th May; Old Moor had singles on 10th, 12th, 13th and 16th May (with possibly the same individual involved), but on 18th May three birds were present. Hatfield Moors recorded two on 12th May, followed by a single on 26th May. A lone bird was at Swillington Ings on 30th April, followed by singles there on 1st and 10th, eight on 12th, singles on 17th, 20th and 26th, four on 22nd, and three on 30th May; two were present on 1st June. One to four moved through Blacktoft Sands on three dates in late May, singles were at Fairburn Ings on 14th and 16th May, and three were at Winterset on 15th and one on 18th. Other singles during May appeared at Eccup Res on 3rd; Redmires Res on 10th; Whiteholme on 11th; Nosterfield NR on 12th; Dewsbury SF on 19th; Southfield Res on 25th and Tarn Flow, Malham on 31st.

In the autumn, one or two were seen at Blacktoft Sands on nine dates between 14th July and 16th October. Two were on Old Moor on 22nd July, followed by two more on 23rd August. At Swillington Ings, one on 27th July was joined by two more on 28th, one on 16th August was followed by eight two days later and one arrived on 28th August; a single was also present from 1st–10th September. Two were at Fairburn Ings on 16th August and in September a single flew through Southfield Res on 3rd and two were down there on 15th. One was at Silverwood Lagoon on 23rd August and one was at Swillington Ings from 4th–9th September. Unusually, a mid–winter single was inland at Nosterfield NR on 27th December.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolour* A 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; 13 previous records

A moulting adult discovered at Catterick Racecourse Quarry Lake at 1730hrs on 18th August flew off after an hour (SCI *et al.*). It had returned the next morning, but unfortunately, a Peregrine disturbed all the waders present at 115hrs and it departed and failed to reappear. Undoubtedly, the same individual had spent the preceding week at Bishop Middleton Pools, Durham. The last in the county was a first–winter at Coatham Marsh in September 2001.

RED–NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* A 2,2,1,1,4
Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

The Western Palaearctic population extends from northern Scotland eastwards through Scandinavia and northern Russia and migrates overland to winter in the Arabian Sea. It has declined as a British breeder and just a few reported annually, with the majority of records from the east coast in autumn.

A better than average year, with four records: a very showy bird spent the afternoon at Blacktoft Sands on 30th May; a juvenile was on Lingham Lake, Nosterfield on 28th July (JRM: IW: SPW *et al.*); another juvenile fed on the sea off Flamborough Head on 10th August (PAL); and a late first–winter bird was seen on the Humber at Spurn on 2nd October, before it flew off north (IS: IDW).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* A 17,11,25,8,38
Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north–westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

A superb autumn, reflecting the higher than usual numbers displaced into the North Sea by strong northerly winds in late September and again in early November.

The only record in the first half of the year was off the South Cliffs at Flamborough on 23rd January (RBa). Flamborough typically fared the best during autumn, with a minimum of 12 birds: One flew south on 17th September, followed by two on 27th September, one of which flew north (AMA: PAL: IM) and the other was on the sea off South Landing (C & PT). One relocated back north on 28th (PAL: IM) and there were five lingering off the Head on 29th September (BR *et al.*). In November, it is thought that just one individual was involved in the vast majority of sightings: one south on 3rd (BR *et al.*), one north on 6th (PAL), two north on 9th (AMA: PC: JMc), one north on 12th (PC), again the following day (PC) and one north on 15th (KC: PC).

Filey logged ten birds during the autumn starting with three feeding off the Brigg End on the evening of 20th September (SC: JHo *et al.*). Reflecting the situation along the entire coast, there were several records in the last week of September: singles north on 26th (MJG: JHo: CCT) and 27th (JHo) were followed by two feeding off the Brigg on 28th (CCT *et al.*). A single gave great views close to the Brigg from 3rd to 6th October (JS *et al.*) and another gave a repeat performance there from 23rd October, sporadically through to 7th November (TDa *et al.*). The last one sheltered just offshore of the brigg on 18th November (JS).

At Spurn there were five records: one flew north on 11th September (JAB: GCT), one flew south on 26th September (AAH) and one flew north on 27th September (GCT). In November one flew north on 9th (KR: BRS) and Spurn's last was picked up freshly dead on the road at Middle Camp on 13th (PCo).

At Scarborough one was in Jackson's Bay on 27th September (MF: KW), and one was recorded flying north past Long Nab in good seawatching conditions on 9th November (SW). Other coastal records included one at South Gare on 26th September (NAP: JR) and another there on 12th November (SJH: HM: JLS).

There was also a good series of records away from the coast: a first–winter was present on 'D' Res at Tophill Low NR on 26th–27th September (KJA *et al.*) and another appeared on the main lake at North Cave Wetlands also on 26th. One was seen at Silverwood Lagoons near Rotherham on 28th September (GF) and Astley Lake, Swillington Ings hosted another on the same day (GPKL: GYL: PRM). A single appeared on Fairburn Ings on 29th September (BBI) and another appeared briefly at Broomhill Flash on 8th October (JES). The last one was found from a boat, while the observer was fishing for pike at Ellerton Ings in the Lower Derwent Valley on 11th November (DS).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* A
Uncommon coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in circumpolar sub–Arctic regions, migrating south, sometimes overland, to winter in the southern oceans.

The first of the year, a 'spooned' adult headed south at South Gare on 20th March, but then no further records until an adult over Cowbar breakwater on 26th June. July's records all came from Flamborough and yielded three on 20th, two on 24th, one on 29th and another the following day.

There were 26 bird/days at Flamborough in August, with a concentration in the last week with six on 24th and seven on 28th, when seven also passed Skinningrove. With prolonged periods of north–westerlies numbers increased in September, although the promising conditions were probably a little too early for this skua. Up to four were recorded at Flamborough on 14 dates, with a best nine on 15th September, while there were eight bird/days from Scarborough and nine bird/days at Spurn. Although there were six bird/days at Spurn during October, the only other record for the entire month related to two off Flamborough on 18th October.

However, the best passage for many years occurred in the first half of November and was reflected along the entire coastline. Three south at Spurn on 1st hinted at increasing numbers within the North Sea and this was confirmed when a north–westerly picked up during the afternoon of 3rd. A superb 108 flew south through Spurn, while 75 headed south at Flamborough, 47 at Filey and 16 were pushed south at Long Nab between 1300–1500hrs. Sixty went south at Flamborough on 4th, with eight passing Long Nab, 13 off Filey and 26 south

at Spurn on the same day. Another pulse moved south on 6th, with a best of 32 at Flamborough and 43 off Spurn; north–westerlies on 9th induced the last major displacement, when 21 tracked south at Long Nab, 46 passed Flamborough and 22 flew south at Spurn. Small numbers remained in the North Sea to the end of November, while December’s records were confined to a juvenile chasing gulls off Scalby Mills on 9th, one off Flamborough on 13th and a single north at Spurn on 19th.

Inland, an adult was on the Ouse at Blacktoft on 5th August and four tracked north–west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 4th November.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in northern Scotland and widely around the Arctic and sub–Arctic, migrating along the Yorkshire coast and wintering at sea usually in the southern hemisphere, but some linger further north.

Typically, spring records referred mainly to birds flying east over Spurn, with one on 15th, five on 22nd and a single on 25th April; further north, Flamborough recorded its first on 29th April. Up to nine were logged at Flamborough on odd dates in June, with sightings then daily from July through to the end of September; highs included 32 on 20th July; 48 on 19th and 54 on 31st August. Filey’s maximum also came in August with 57 south on 19th, with 40 on 10th September, that month’s high–point. At Spurn most double–figure counts were low, although numbers increased during September with 61 on 3rd, 52 on 4th, 160 on 10th and 64 on 15th. Very few tracked along the coast in October, although the northerlies in November did displace a few individuals and the last single flew past Spurn on 24th November.

Overall there was a considerable improvement in the number of birds passing Filey, with a total of 720 bird–days (compared with 395, 583 and 237 over the last three years); however, the traditional build–up of small numbers harrying tern flocks failed to materialize around the Brigg and the same absence was noted further north around the Tees.

There were several inland records, with the first a dark–phase adult west over Southfield Res on 27th April. A single tracked past Sunk Island on 3rd May, with the next north over Wheldrake Ings on 25th July. A single flew over Fairburn village on 6th August, with another passing Blacktoft on 17th of the same month. There were two September records: an adult at Nosterfield on 6th and another at Blacktoft on 28th.

LONG–TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* **A**
Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county. Increased observer awareness led to more records in the 1990s, but recent years have been relatively poor. Numbers depend on the Lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.

The first were two adults north at Atwick on 22nd May. An immature headed north at Flamborough on 20th July and the next was an adult south at Filey on 12th August. The second half of August witnessed an increase in activity, with an adult north at Flamborough on 18th, one south at Spurn on 20th, followed by another adult south at Marine Drive on 23rd. Two juveniles flew north at Flamborough on 28th August, when an adult flew south at Long Nab. August’s final records related to an adult south at Filey on 29th, with one of similar age tracking south past Flamborough on 31st August.

On 3rd September a juvenile went south past Cromer Point with another north past Long Nab and an adult tracked south at Spurn; next day two juveniles flew north at Flamborough, with a single also north past Skinningrove and another at Spurn. A local movement was confined to Spurn on 10th, when nine birds flew south – four adults and five juveniles. A sub–adult and a juvenile flew north at Spurn on 11th and two juveniles flew north there on 14th. A juvenile flew south past Flamborough on 17th when an adult tracked south at Spurn, with another juvenile over Old Fall, Flamborough three days later. September ended with strong NNW winds responsible for a flurry of records, starting with two juveniles north off Filey on 25th; the following day an adult flew south at Spurn and another juvenile flew north at Filey. The 27th witnessed the most activity, with five juveniles north at Long Nab, three north at Filey and two north at Flamborough. Fewer were noted the following day, with records confined to two juveniles north off Long Nab and a juvenile north at South Gare and the latter location recorded the year’s last, with two present offshore on 29th September.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua* **A**
Amber list: fairly common to uncommon coastal passage migrant; rare inland

Breeds in Scotland, Iceland, the Faeroes and recently Scandinavia, migrating usually offshore to the seas off southern Europe.

On 22nd January three moved north past Long Nab, with another off Filey, while five days later a single was off Flamborough. One at Filey on 12th February was the sole record for the month, followed by singles logged at Flamborough on 19th and 31st March; it was recorded on three April dates at Spurn and one at Flamborough. After records on a handful of dates in May and June, it wasn’t until July that any appreciable increase was noted. Flamborough proved the most productive and several double–figure counts were made from mid–July, with 19 on 21st, 25 on 28th and 26 on 29th. September featured several periods of northerlies which resulted in the best periods of passage; 92 were logged passing Spurn on 10th, 70 was the maximum at Flamborough on 15th, when 37 more were at Spurn, 37 were off Flamborough on 17th, with 29 there on 28th. October was virtually ‘Bonxie–free’, while the November gales displaced small numbers, with a best of six at Flamborough on 3rd; the year’s last flew north off Burniston on 14th November.

An unusual mid–summer single at Leighton Res harried local gulls on 5th July. All the other inland records were confined to September, with the first picked up at Malton on 11th and later released at Bempton. A single flew through Ellerton Ings on 13th September, while Blacktoft Sands produced a flurry at the end of the month: one flew SW on 27th and six tracked west on 29th September.

SABINE’S GULL *Larus sabini* **A**
Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles.

It was a superb year, with most coastal sites cashing in during September when weather systems produced conducive spells of northerlies. In the north of the county, an adult tracked south off Cowbar on 17th September, a single was off Ness Point on 23rd September and a juvenile was off South Gare on 28th September. The following day a juvenile headed north off Marine Drive, Scarborough. Filey’s first consisted of an adult that circled the Brigg before eventually flying north on 8th August. The next flew south on 19th August, with Filey’s associated with strong northerlies at the end of September, with two juveniles tracking back north on 28th.

Unsurprisingly, most records came from Flamborough which recorded an exceptional year. It started with an adult north on 2nd August, another similarly on 17th, followed by two adults north on 19th August. The first juvenile flew north on 26th August, with it or another juvenile south three days later. September began with two juveniles on 4th, a juvenile on 7th and two juveniles on 8th. A juvenile tracked north on 11th, with two adults heading in a similar direction the next day and an adult and two juveniles flew north on 15th. Two juveniles flew north on 16th and a juvenile went south the following day. A juvenile lingered off the South Cliffs on 26th, before three juveniles flew north on 27th, an adult and a juvenile were present on 28th and two juveniles were logged on both 29th and 30th September; one of the juveniles on the former date gave superb views on South Landing beach and triggered a ‘photographers frenzy’! A juvenile appeared near Old Fall on 13th October, with presumably the same at South Landing the next day. The Bridlington seabird cruise also managed to connect with a single on 16th September and two on 22nd September.

Further south, two were off Atwick on 11th September, with a single off Ulrome on 19th. The same site also proved productive later in the month, when two were present offshore on 27th September.

Spurn’s first related to an adult south with terns on 16th August. All the other records came in September: a juvenile fed offshore for 20 minutes on 11th September; two single juveniles flew north on 12th September; two juveniles flew south together on 17th September; a juvenile again headed south the following day; another juvenile tracked south on 26th September; finally, an adult flew north on 27th September.

There were two inland records at the end of September; a juvenile fed with a mixed Black–headed and Common Gull flock on farmland at Little Hunsley Farm on 27th (DHe) and another juvenile flew north over the car park at Winterset on 29th (PM).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* **A**
Amber list: common coastal breeder and passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds along the coasts of northern Europe and the Arctic.

Despite the dramatic decline in breeding numbers during the 1990’s Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head continue to support the largest Kittiwake colony in the UK. Although no whole colony count was carried out this year, breeding success was good with each pair producing an average of 0.83 fledglings per pair. This represents a year–on–year improvement since the record low of 0.19 fledglings per pair in 2004. Elsewhere, there were an estimated 5950 pairs between Hunt Cliff and Cowbar, near Staithes, up on the 4700 present the previous year and back to the levels of 2005. In total, there were 1393 nests on the Castle Cliffs, Scarborough on 21st

June, just slightly down on last year; in addition, there were 93 nests on the Grand Hotel, 13 on the Town Hall, nine at the Harbour, 11 on Sandside and six on the Britannia Inn. Good numbers of young were present on 2nd July and it appeared to be a successful breeding season.

Very scarce early on, with 120 north off Long Nab into the face of a force seven gale on 22nd January noteworthy. In the north of the county, passage was unremarkable, with a maximum of 400 north off Skinningrove on 29th August. The strong northerly winds displaced many in early November and 480 flew south off Filey on 3rd; 1600 and 1000 were off Flamborough and Barmston respectively the same day; on 9th another 400 tracked south passing Long Nab. However, none were recorded off Scarborough after 12th November.

Off Spurn numbers in January remained in single figures, apart from 23 on 4th and 55 on 15th. After only two records in February, sightings became almost daily from April to the end of September; with 416 on 28th May and 900 on 29th July stand-out counts. Reflecting patterns at other coastal sites, November produced a run of records with 233 on 3rd; 456 on 6th; 504 on 9th; and 237 on 11th. Very few were logged after this date.

Inland records were mainly confined to March/April, although Tophill hosted the first on 4th February. Activity increased substantially in March, with the following singles: Winterset on 18th; Southfield Res on 18th/19th; Ringstone Edge on 21st; Southfield Res on 22nd; Old Moor on 27–30th; Rother Valley CP on 29th; five at Southfield Res on 29th March; three at North Cave on 30th; finally, one at Grimwith Res on 31st. In April there were sightings from: Southfield Res on 3rd April (12 adults), a single on 4th and another there two days later; Swillington on 8th; Fairburn on 9th; three at North Cave on 13th; Winterset on 15th; and Potteric Carr on 24th. Fewer were noted inland in May, with two at Paull Holme Strays on 4th, followed by a single at Old Moor on 7th, one at Winterset on 16th May and a lone individual at Potteric on 28th May. An isolated record of one through Swillington on 26th July was at an unusual time of year. In the latter half, there were also records of a juvenile at Winterset on 26th September and four north over Rother Valley CP on 10th November.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* **A**

Amber list: common breeder and abundant in winter. BBS 53/222

A widespread and successful species, breeding from east Canada east through Britain and Europe to northeast China. As many as 1.9 million are thought to winter in Britain, with many immigrants from northern Europe and perhaps western Russia reaching Yorkshire.

A reflection of how roosting numbers vary on inland waters is best illustrated by a series of counts from Eccup Res, which attracts a sizeable roost. During January it held up to 17,000, with 15,000 remaining in February and 10,000 still present on 8th March. However, many obviously departed during the month, with only 2000 present at the end of March and only 250 present on 4th April. Single figures then featured until 30 on 20th July and tallies slowly increased until 1000 were present on 20th August, The roost held 5000 on 26th September, 7500 birds on 22nd October, 10,000 on 12th November and 15,000 from 29th November to the year end.

Mid-winter counts from elsewhere included: 3500 in the roost at Swinsty Res, Bradford on 5th January; 4000 at Pugneys in January and 5000 present in November/December; 5000 at Castle Howard on 20th January and the same number roosted on 27th December; 8000 roosted at Southfield Res on 25th January, with 4000 there on 16th August. There were an estimated 20,000–30,000 in the roost at Lingham Lake on 27th January, with 10,000 present in December there; 4800 roosted in the Lower Derwent; 9000 on the Melton foreshore on 25th February; 3835 in the roost at Tophill on 17th January and 3000 present there on 9th December; an estimated 10,000–20,000 in the early winter roost at Winterset was considered par.

Small colonies included: 11 pairs at Winterset; 12 pairs at Broomhill Flash; 2 pairs at Tophill; five juveniles fledged at Kex Gill Quarry; 12 juveniles fledged at Simm Bottom, Barden Moor; 2000 were also present during the summer in the large colony at Upper Barden Res, Barden Moor. Ninety pairs bred at Blacktoft and fledged over 120 young, 120 pairs had a successful season at North Cave, but the productivity from the 60 pairs at Pugneys was considered poor. Breeding was also proved on Thorne Moors at Will Pitts Scrape, where 200 adults were present on 24th May and at Skipwith Common, where 52 adults were present on 25th May. At Potteric Carr colonies were being established at Decoy Marsh and Low Ellers in February, but heavy rainfall in June caused the colony to desert and move to Huxter Well. Eventually an estimated 200 pairs established on this area of the reserve, after a mere six were present in 2006. In addition, a few pairs still nested on Decoy Marsh. In the lower Aire valley none bred at Skelton Lake and there were only 26 pairs at Fairburn. However, it appears that birds from both these sites have relocated to breed on the newly constructed islands at Swillington Ings, where there was an estimated 1000 pairs by early May, when the first chicks had appeared. Although later nesting pairs were adversely affected by the summer flooding some pairs had either already fledged young or re-nested and overall success was considered the best ever.

Along the coast 335 headed south at Filey on 3rd September. The mid-autumn period also witnessed an appreciable increase passing Flamborough; after 333 on 3rd, there were 942 present on 8th September, while

the year's maximum there consisted of 1071 on 28th October. At Spurn in the first half, 3923 flew south, 120 came in off the sea and 392 flew out east, with a best of 427 on 18th March. Passage was much lighter in the second half of the year; just 1688 flew south and 196 came in off to the end of November, with a maximum of 497 on 25th October.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds across Eurasia with birds dispersing in late July, entering the North Sea via the Baltic, and generally wintering south of England.

In the north an adult was off Redcar on 17th January and a first-winter lingered at Marske from 29th February to 1st March. Reports increased from late summer, although passage peaked in September, with counts at South Gare including 450 on 7th and 250 on 15th. Early records off the Scarborough coast included singles at Scalby Lodge Pond on 21st February and 14th March. Gain September produced the largest counts with regular double figure counts from 4th–28th September; on the evening of 5th 160 were off Long Nab and 80 went south in one hour at Marine Drive on 9th. Two off Long Nab on 3rd November were Scarborough's last of the year.

A first-winter flew south at Filey on 13th January, with another present on 25th. After an isolated record on 12th April and the next on 16th July, records became regular from August. A total of 1,860 were recorded at Filey in September; the best day count came on 23rd, when 860 were feeding offshore, which constituted Filey's third best ever total. Other notable days included 5th September, when 132 fed in the bay and 9th, when 578 flew north. After 91 south on 25th September, numbers fell away very sharply, with only seven in October and the final record of five south on 3rd November.

Flamborough's sole record in the first quarter related to a single on 20th January, with the next recorded on 7th and 13th May. There was an increase from mid July with 75 on 28th and a site record for that month of 863 on 25th. Numbers were high in August: with 402 on 9th, 1932 on 11th, 3097 on 13th and 1287 on 16th, as well as five other treble-figure counts. Normally the best month totals in September were a little lower with 2422 on 4th, 1171 on 5th, 646 on 6th, 817 on 7th, 2000 on 8th, 1066 on 10th and 1225 on 11th. After 470 on 23rd, numbers fell to 287 on 29th and 147 on 30th. The October maximum was 17 on 28th and the year's last came on 13th November.

Numbers in Bridlington Bay were high throughout August, with 1300 off Atwick on 8th August and 1130 present off there on 24th. However, the true scale of numbers involved was indicated by the roost on Hornsea Mere. The largest numbers were present from 20th August–4th September, with a maximum of 15,000 roosting on the Mere on 21st August.

At Spurn one that was present on New Year's Day was the sole record over the first quarter. After records on a handful of dates from April–June, small numbers were recorded almost daily from early July to the end of September, until the last five on 20th November. It appeared the largest numbers were further north in Bridlington Bay, as autumn counts were lower than previous years. In August the best were 134 on 8th and 246 on 27th, while the September highlights included: 132 on 8th, 250 on 10th, 208 on 11th and 137 on 29th.

Sightings were scattered across several inland sites, especially in the late summer/early autumn, coinciding with the peak along the coast. An adult at Elland GP on 11th January was unusual, with the first swathe of records occurring in early May. Amongst others, nine were at Fairburn and five at Pugneys on 3rd May. Two weeks later, 15 were on Welton Waters on 17th May and 17 appeared at Blacktoft on 31st May. However, most appeared inland from late summer: six flew west at Southfield Res on 7th and ten more tracked north over there on 23rd August. A flock of 100 were over water adjacent to the Leven-bypass on the latter date. By far the largest numbers were noted at Tophill Low. A flock of 25 were present on 19th July and this number grew substantially, with 250 present on 24th July. Numbers declined over forthcoming days, with 50 there on 10th August. Small numbers were recorded through the rest of autumn, until the last four on 4th November.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in all seasons; has attempted to breed

Breeding mainly in southeast and southern Europe, there has been an expansion northwest in recent years and numbers recorded in the county continue to increase.

Records were widely distributed at inland locations, with three at Tophill on 10th February and a similar number at High Eske on 10th July. One at Malham Tarn on 8th March was only the second ever at the site. Two second-summers arrived at Old Moor on 26th April and held territory and displayed until 6th May. At Swillington Ings, two adults arrived in the gull colony on 3rd March. They were then joined by a second-summer on 3rd April and one of the adults subsequently paired with the new arrival. Two chicks were hatched, but the young did not survive to fledging.

Along the coast the main focus was on the Scarborough coastline, especially the Holbeck/South Bay area; birds were only absent here between April and late July. Seven (four adults, one 2nd winter, two 1st winter) were present on 13th January, with an additional first-winter appearing on 4th March, producing the year's maximum of eight. Five remained on 19th March, but there were only two by 24th March. Three adults and a 1st summer returned on 27th July, including the Serbian colour-ringed individual for its fifth consecutive winter. Five (four adults, one second-winter) were still present at the year end.

The spread of records at both Filey and Flamborough was typical; an increase in March and April, then generally a summer lull until the first juveniles appeared. Numbers then tend to peak between September and early November. This year the first juvenile was logged off Flamborough on 11th August, while two birds were at Filey on 23rd September and three were in the area in early November, usually located in the Bay gull roost. Two adults south at Flamborough on 3rd November were the last record there. An adult and first-winter following the plough at Buckton on 21st October represented the first site record.

At Spurn eight were present on 19th August, with undoubtedly the same individuals largely responsible for the late summer gathering in the Easington area, which peaked at seven on 30th August. Further north, five were at Holmpton on 22nd September.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* **A**

Amber list: common to abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 14/222

Breeds in Scotland, and only common in Yorkshire outside the breeding season when continental migrants from Scandinavia and the Baltic states arrive from September through to December to winter. European breeding populations have been declining.

A minimum of 5000 were in the Eccup gull roost from the start of the year to mid February, with numbers dropping as birds moved on; 3500 were present on 18th March, with only 2000 a week later, 1500 on 3rd April and 1000 birds the following day. None were present between 23rd April and 7th July, while the autumn increase was slow with 150 on 1st September building to 1000 in the roost by the month end, 2000 by mid October, 4000 on 21st November and 5000 from 29th November to the end of the year.

Other appreciable counts included: 1500 off Flamborough on 1st January, increasing to 2650 on 14th; between 1000–2000 regularly in the winter roost at Winterset; 6000 on Hornsea Mere on 3rd January; 3600 on Lingham Lake on 21st January; 1600 at Southfield Res on 23rd January; 8000 roosting at Tophill on 10th February and 4200 present there on 9th December; 14,000 on Melton foreshore on 25th February; 4800 roosted in Filey Bay on 11th March; 1500 roosted at Wykeham Lakes on 25th March, with 2100 present on 23rd September and 1800 on 30th October; 1127 roosted on the South Tees in November.

Coastal passage included 200 south at Long Nab on 12th August and 150 similarly on 15th October, while 116 tracked south off Filey on 26th October. There were very few movements recorded off Spurn with the most significant relating to 148 north on 5th September.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; fairly common passage migrant/increasing winter visitor BBS 29/222

The form *graellsii* occasionally breeds in Yorkshire at inland sites and on coastal rooftops in Scarborough, Filey and Bridlington. This race also breeds in Western Europe, Greenland, Iceland and the Faeroes as well as northern Britain, and migrates through the county to winter to the south, usually returning in March. The race *intermedius* breeds in Denmark, southern Norway and Sweden and occurs in small numbers on passage.

Although numbers tended to peak in the autumn, there were 500 at Cullingworth in May and 300 at Swillington during spring passage. Sample roost counts in the autumn included: 1000 at Lingham Lake/Flasks Lake in September, rising to 1600 in October; only 150 at Swillington, half the number of a few years ago; 1187 roosted at Langsett on 4th October and 430 on Redmires Res on 25th October. At Winterset 76 roosted on 11th August, rising to 1250 by 29th September, 900 remained on 15th October, with 100 on 4th November and only 19 by 11th November. Potteric's maximum was 322 on 9th June, with 800 at Southfield Res on 5th September. It failed to breed at Upper Barden Res, where it has done so in the past.

The Wykeham Lakes evening roost counts produced the highest numbers. After 180 on 19th July, 550 were present on 3rd August and 400 on 23rd September; numbers then dropped gradually, leaving just 60 on 30th October. Two pairs bred in Filey town and at least one chick fledged. In addition, four adults prospected possible nest sites on the Blue Dolphin cliffs on 11th May, but attempted breeding did not take place.

Spring passage was obvious at both Flamborough and Spurn, with a peak at both sites during May. At the former locality, the best totals were 45 on 6th May, 42 on 19th and 34 on 26th May. Passage at Spurn included 34 north on 5th May, 38 south on 6th, 52 north on 15th and 52 south on 27th May.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*argenteus*)

Fairly common resident breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 32/222

The race *argenteus* breeds in Britain and Ireland, including along the Yorkshire coast from where it disperses mostly locally. Distribution in BBS squares represents mostly dispersed non-breeders.

The numbers inland have declined markedly over the past few years, with several roosts now almost abandoned; this may in part due to the closure of tips. The Bar Lane Quarry roost near Harrogate held 160 on 2nd March, with 200 on Flasks Lake on 28th October. Swillington attracted the largest roost with an estimated 3000 present in both winter periods, although accurate counts were difficult with birds dropping into partly obscured areas of the site. The largest total from the Sheffield area was 300 on Broomhead Res on 3rd January, with 200 the best at Winterset on 26th December. The Lower Derwent Valley attracted a sizeable roost in the first quarter with 1600 roosting on 16th February. The maxima at Southfield Res for each winter period were 1300 on 23rd January and 580 present on 15th November.

The largest count from the South Tees was 384 in January, with 265 present at the year end. A sub-adult with yellow legs, but otherwise clearly *argenteus*, was present at Redcar on 12th May; there have been several such sightings along the coast recently, especially at Flamborough. The breeding population on the cliffs increased after a few stable years, with around 410 pairs between Saltburn and Cowbar.

At Wykeham Lakes, the largest roost totalled 350 on 31st December. Four hundred flew south at Long Nab on 18th November, of which only fifteen showed characters of the northern Scandinavian race *L.a. argentatus*. A flock of 1700 was on the rocks below the Blue Dolphin at Filey on 21st January, a much larger number than has been present here over recent years. Numbers began to build from late summer, with 1030 present around the Brigg on 23rd September.

At Spurn there were several good southbound tallies including: 450 on 1st January; 800 on 17th February; 1000 on 16th March and 1600 on 18th March. In the second half similar movements involved: 1374 south on 28th October; 359 on 7th November and 463 on 8th December.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* **A**

Amber list: uncommon summer visitor and migrant

Breeds in southern Europe. Numbers reported from the county seem to have stabilised in recent years now that observers are familiar with its identification, but more are being reported from the north of the county.

Most occur between July and late October, with a smaller number in spring. Mid-winter records tend to be scarce and this year included: a first-winter at Broomhead on 3rd January, with an adult there on 13th; an adult at Winterset on 7th January and a first-year present on 14th January; one at Harewood Whin Tip, York on 14th January; Nosterfield on 4th February; Swillington on 25th February, with two adults present on 1st March and finally, a single at Wheldrake on 13th March. At the year end, an adult dropped in at Potteric on 22nd December.

Certain inland waters tend to be favoured and this year was no exception. However, with only four records the Bradford area had a very disappointing year; the Cullingworth/Thornton Moor Res area alone had 14 different individuals in 2006. Apart from the aforementioned, there were sporadic sightings at Swillington from 24th May through to 31st August, with a maximum of three on 2nd June. Winterset hosted birds on an almost daily basis in the roost from 6th August until late October, with a best of eight on 26th September; the last was on 10th November. There were regular records at Redmires in early autumn, with three present on 7th September and again on 15th October and four adults roosted on Langsett Res on 27th September. The Huxter well area of Potteric proved to be a favoured location for loafing gulls; sightings were regular from 16th May to 14th October, with a maximum of five on 1st July. Hatfield Moors hosted several birds from 28th July to 25th August, with a high of four on 11th August. A second-summer on Cononley Ings on 8th July was the first record for the area.

On the very northern fringe of the county the semi-resident adult remained around the Tees Barrage area from January into March and from 25th June into 2008. To the south, all Scarborough records came from the roost on Wykeham Lakes. An adult was present on 3rd May, with an adult and third-summer seen on 19th July. A third-summer was picked out on 3rd August, an adult on 30th October, another adult on 17th December and a different adult again on 19th December. An adult lingered around Filey Brigg from 13th January until 27th; presumably the same re-appeared on 26th February. Another adult rested at the Brigg End amongst the loafing gulls on 20th June.

At Flamborough, an adult went north on 4th February, with possibly the same off the South Cliffs on 16th February. A third-summer flew south on 7th May, followed by an adult north on 5th and a fourth-summer south on 10th May. In September, an adult rested in a field near Old Fall on 20th and 23rd. Spurn's first was an

adult off the Blue Bell on 21st May, followed by a third-year bird off the Warren two days later. Thereafter up to three were present in the area until late August, most often found resting in fields or off Sammy’s Point ; the last flew south off Spurn on 13th September. Along the Humber, Patrington Haven is establishing itself as one of the county’s premier sites in mid/late summer and recorded a peak of 11 on 14th July.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* **A** 2,4,2,3,1
Rare visitor: 15 previous records

Caspian Gull breeds in the Caspian and Black Sea areas, but has recently expanded its breeding range to Poland. It is now regularly reported from south-east England, but in much smaller numbers than *machahellis*. It was a disappointing year, with the sole record an adult at Patrington on 2nd August (GED); on primary moult, undoubtedly the same individual was then re-found at East Newton four days later (TI: AFJ: GCT). Despite the annual nature of recent records, there hasn’t been an easily twitchable bird since the second-winter at Nosterfield in early 2004.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland. All records refer to first-year birds unless otherwise stated. There were a good series of records from the Harrogate area, particularly over the first two months. Hay-a-Park GP hosted the first on 31st January, followed by a 2nd-winter at Bar Lane Quarry on 9th February. The same location attracted three different birds on 13th February (second-winter, third-winter, adult), with two second-winters present on 23rd of the same month. Nosterfield attracted a single on 17th February, with an adult there on 17th and 27th March. In the second winter period, Bar Lane Quarry again proved productive with a third-winter on 30th November. The roost at Swillington Ings pulled in an adult and a near-adult on 11th February, with the latter seen to leave the roost early the next morning. A third-year roosted on 18th February (having been seen at the nearby Biffa Tip the previous day). On 25th February four different individuals visited the site during the course of the day; two first-winters, a third-winter and an adult. The next appeared in the roost on 1st April and presumably the same bird left the roost early on 7th; later that day an adult roosted. Two first-winters on 15th April were the last of the first period.

A first-winter bird flew up the valley at Swillington on 25th December and then visited both Skelton Lake and Swillington Ings on 26th. An immature flew south over Rother Valley CP on 9th April. A second-year appeared on odd dates at Southfield Res from 11th March–3rd April.

In the York area, there was a series of records from the roost on Wheldrake Ings; a single adult was present on 6th January and also visited Harewood Whin tip. Two roosted at Wheldrake on 16th February and presumably one of the same was then discovered on fields near Knapton the next day. Three different birds roosted on Wheldrake during March, including two first-winters on 13th. Finally, two first-winters were present at Wheldrake on 8th April, with three present on 11th. In the second period, a juvenile appeared in the roost at Castle Howard on 10th November (first site record), with probably the same again on 27th December.

On the coast a third-winter was off South Gare on 23rd January and then a gap until a series of records in May. A first-summer was at South Gare on 5th and 7th May, with a second-winter present on 8th and then both appeared together at Redcar 10th–11th May; undoubtedly one of these being seen at Coatham Marsh the following day. In the Scarborough area a juvenile appeared at Seamer Tip on 25th February, Scalby Mills on 3rd March in South Bay on 16th March. Wykeham Lakes hosted a second-winter on 16th and 22nd April; a juvenile was also at Eastfield on the latter date. In the latter quarter: an adult was off Marine Drive on 7th November; a juvenile roosted at Wykeham Lakes on 19th December; an adult was on Scalby Lodge Pond on 20th December and finally, a juvenile flew south at Cromer Point on 25th December.

At Filey juveniles flew north on 29th January, 11th February and 21st March and a third-winter/adult tracked north on 10th March. In the latter half, a first-winter flew north on 13th November. To the south at Flamborough, a juvenile lingered offshore on 25th and 29th January and another juvenile was on the Golf Course on 20th/21st March. An adult south on 10th November constituted Flamborough’s only record in the second half. At Spurn a juvenile was at the Point on 26th January. Three weeks later an adult fed on pipefish off the Warren on 19th February; it was then observed sporadically until 8th April. A second-calendar year was present from 26th March–29th March and again from 9th to 11th April. In December an adult drifted slowly south past the Blue Bell on 15th.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and has in the past been more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*, particularly on the coast, but recently this has not been the case. There were two records from the Halifax area, which may well refer to the same individual; an adult flew south-west over Scammonden on 25th November and an adult also flew south-west over Green Withens on 11th December.

In the lower Aire valley, a first-winter appeared on Fairburn on 7th January. Nearby a similarly aged bird was discovered in the Swillington Ings roost on 6th April and it appeared there most days until 20th April. In the latter half of the year, a first-winter bird roosted sporadically at Swillington Ings from 18th–30th November. A juvenile flew over the A64 near Tadcaster on 1st December. A first-winter appeared at Winterset on 22nd December.

In the Sheffield area, a first-winter frequented Bolehill Tip, Treeton on 10th February and one headed north over Rother Valley CP on 1st April. An adult flew up the Ouse at Blacktoft on 28th October while Southfield Res attracted a first-winter to the gull roost on 14th/15th November, with a similarly aged bird present on 17th December. The Wheldrake Ings roost hosted a single during March.

In the north of the county, the sole record referred to a first-winter on Saltburn beach on 17th November. Around Scarborough a juvenile frequented the harbour on 21st January and 2nd February, while a third-winter fed at the piggery at West Heslerton on 24th April. In the second winter period, a juvenile went west at Cromer Point on 28th November. In December, one of similar age tracked south at Burniston Bay on 4th. Finally, the roost at Wykeham Lakes pulled in a juvenile on 17th and 21st December.

A juvenile sheltered in the Bay Corner at Filey on 3rd January, with another of similar age on the rocks below the Blue Dolphin on 3rd February. In the second period, a juvenile flew north on 9th November, with presumably the same in the Bay roost two days later and heading inland over the Coble Landing on 14th November. At Flamborough a juvenile tracked north on 3rd February and a first-summer lingered off the Head on 18th August.

A first-winter roosted on Hornsea Mere from 3rd–7th January. In the second period, Ulrome hosted a second-winter on 11th November. At Spurn a juvenile was at Chalk Bank on 26th January and a second-year fed off the Point on 1st April; the same individual was then recorded on a daily basis until 9th, and re-appeared from 19th to 22nd. A juvenile flew south on 6th November, with probably the same south on 8th and 10th. The year’s last was a juvenile at Beacon Ponds on 16th December.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding resident. BBS 4/222

The British population breeds on northern and western coasts. Present throughout due to summering immatures and wintering adults, probably from Scandinavia.

Numbers are much reduced, especially at inland waters in the south and west. At Winterset the highest roost count came on New Year’s Day when 246 were present; at the year end, the maximum was a mere 38 on 26th December. Broomhead Res pulled in 132 on 4th January, with 120 at Old Moor in December. The only other appreciable count from the west of the county consisted of 300 at Fairburn on 7th January. Tophill provided by far the largest count from an inland site, with 1200 in the roost on 6th February.

Counts from the South Tees showed a marked bias towards the last six months of the year. Numbers peaked along the South Tees in the latter half of the year; 402 in January was an isolated peak, with February’s tally a mere 21. Numbers then increased substantially from July, peaking at 547 in August, before dropping back to 60 in December. Further south, 300 were at Kettleness on 27th August.

Wykeham Lakes held sizeable roosts at either end of the year; 540 were present on 21st January, 350 on 8th April and 250 on 22nd April. Numbers started to build from just 15 on 19th July to 110 on 22nd July. Totals continued to increase, with 500 on 12th November, 800 on 13th December and 1250 on 31st December. Large counts from other parts of the Scarborough area included 350 north at Long Nab on 18th September, 250 south there on 18th November and 440 at Scalby Mills on 7th December. The largest Flamborough counts referred to loafing non-breeders, with 350 on 16th June and 10th July. Three hundred roosted on Hornsea Mere on 3rd January, whilst 400 congregated on the Melton foreshore on 25th February. The only notable movement at Spurn consisted of 178 south on 26th September; numbers of birds lingering around Spurn peaked in autumn, with 223 present during October.

Site & Date

	First date of pairs	Number fledged	Young	Last date
Fairburn Ings	13/4	none	–	20/9
Farnham GP	24/4	2	4	–
North Cave	15/4	6	9	–
Otley Wetland	5/5	none	–	9/10
Pugneys	15/4	4	n/c	29/9
Rodley NR	15/4	none	–	15/7

In the north of the region, the maximum counts along the South Tees came in August, with a WeBS tally of 211. At Kettleness, two late birds were offshore on 23rd October.

Post-breeding birds appeared along the Scarborough coastline from 1st July, with 67 at Long Nab on 23rd July the highest that month. Numbers increased in August, with 430 south at Long Nab on 12th and 420 on 28th. In September, 200 were feeding off Ravenscar on 5th, 153 went south in one hour at Marine Drive on 9th and 200 flew past Long Nab on 18th. Even in late September there were still a number of birds around, with 60 north at Marine Drive on 26th. On 15th October two flew south at Hundale, Scarborough and a single similarly headed south at Long Nab.

The first record at Filey came on 25th April and numbers then remained low until 16 went north on 8th July. By far the largest July movement related to 66 on 31st. The autumn roost on the Brigg started to build at the beginning of August and reached a peak of 485 on 12th. The numbers involved were nothing like the spectacular counts of 2006, but were still well above the average for the last few years. There were still 400 on 24th and 250 on 28th, after which the numbers fell away during September, but rose again towards the end of the month, peaking at 280 on 23rd. Passage counts during August included 207 south on 10th, 351 south on 19th and 386 north on 23rd. In September 727 were recorded on 25th, which included 397 north and then 330 south; next day only one was present. A single on 14th October was Filey’s last.

Much higher numbers were noted off Flamborough, following the first single on 21st April. Numbers were low until 136 on 21st, 102 on 25th and 111 on 31st. Although passage increased in July, it wasn’t until August that sizeable figures were recorded. There were: 718 on 11th August, 670 on 18th, 550 on 19th and 862 on 23rd. However, numbers peaked during the final week, with 3928 on 24th, 4335 on 25th, 1673 on 26th, 1206 on 27th, 3870 on 28th and 3585 on 29th August. Large numbers were still recorded off Flamborough during the first week of September, including 1525 on 2nd, 3580 on 3rd, 4235 on 4th and the last four-figure tally of 1280 on 6th. Other significant September counts involved 690 on 10th, 647 on 11th, 350 on 16th and 450 on 18th; low numbers remained into October off Flamborough, with the final record relating to two on 17th.

Spurn’s first was logged on 15th April and small numbers were then occasional until mid-July, when the pre-roost tern movements started. The first movement of note was 515 on 22nd July. However the largest counts were in August with 3620 on 5th, 2260 on 12th, 10,500 on 13th, 10,498 on 14th, 8240 on 16th (only identified as ‘Comemics’), 8200 on 17th (‘Comemics’), 4000 on 27th, and 3236 on 31st. Numbers started to drop from mid-September, with 400 on 26th the last major count. Spurn’s last were 36 on 17th October.

Inland, there were no breeding pairs at Fairburn (10 in 2006), due to a combination of high water levels and the relocation of the Black-headed Gull colony. However, perhaps some had moved to Swillington, where the number of pairs increased to 27 (19 in 2006). The number of fledged young across the county was down on the previous year, due to poor weather leading to extensive summer flooding. Away from the coast, the last record was a single at Yeadon Tarn on 16th October.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* A

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn

A widespread species that breeds in the Americas, north-west Europe, southern Africa, through the Indian Ocean to Australasia.

South of the Tees, Cleveland’s first was at South Gare on 23rd June and singles were regular through the subsequent week. Adults accompanied with juveniles were noted at South Gare from 13th August, with a more regular presence towards the month end, although there were never more than two. After a series of such records until 10th, the last was at South Gare 28th–29th September. Singles were observed off Kettleness on 26th July and 31st August.

Following the first two adults and two juveniles on Filey Brigg on 2nd August, there was virtually a continuous presence until the end of the month, with peaks of five on 12th, eight the following day, five on 15th and seven on 19th August. In September, an adult accompanied a juvenile on the Brigg on 5th and there then followed a gap, until a lone adult was present on 21st, with presumably the same again on 23rd September. It was estimated that in total 27 different individuals passed through Filey.

Single adults were off Flamborough on 14th, 17th, 20th and 25th July, with two present on 24th. An adult was logged on 7th, followed by two adults who accompanied a juvenile on 9th, and a lone adult on 11th August. Eight adults north off Flamborough on 18th August constituted the year’s maximum. Subsequently, singles were logged on 19th, 21st, 25th/26th, 28th/29th August, with two adults off the headland on 22nd. September began with two adults on 2nd, followed by singles on 14th and 19th, a juvenile south on 22nd and, similarly, an adult on 27th September. A single was off Grimston on 5th August.

At Spurn an adult north-east over the Warren with two Common Terns on 16th May and two days later another flew north, with presumably the same south later in the day. There were records on 22 days during the autumn, including three on 13th July and 16th August and four on 17th September. The last were two on 18th September, resulting in a bird/day total of 36. Four were at Beacon Ponds on 13th July.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* A

Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor. BBS 1/222

Breeds in northern Europe and the Arctic and winters at sea, making a journey between the two polar regions. Migrates across the UK in spring, many leaving via the Humber.

Over 50 were at South Gare on 2nd September and at least 145 off Skinningrove on 4th, when additionally some 210 non-specific ‘commic’ terns were present.

The first in the Scarborough area were two north at Cayton on 1st May. Returning birds were recorded from 15th July, when 15 flew north at Long Nab. Only a handful were then logged until 28th August, when 135 moved north at Long Nab; in addition 170 flew north on 18th September. After two in Cayton Bay on 17th October, a juvenile lingered in North Bay from 28th–31st October.

Filey’s first appeared on 25th April, although there were no appreciable numbers until 36 north on 21st July. August’s best was 74 on 9th and numbers peaked at 70 on 25th September. Although numbers in the Brigg roost were down on 2006, 50 on 28th August still represented an above average tally. There were just three birds recorded in October, and the last at Filey referred to a single on 1st November.

Spring started at Flamborough with a single on 21st April, followed by 13 bird/days in May, with a maximum of seven on 7th. Low numbers featured on a daily basis during July, although there were 60 on 21st and 52 on 27th. The maximum in August was a mere 35, although September opened with 75 on 2nd. Thereafter, counts were often around 40, but also included 90 on 15th/16th, 58 on 23rd and 146 on 26th. The last at Flamborough was recorded on 27th October. South of the headland, five were still off Atwick on 31st October, with an additional two at Barmston.

Spring passage at Spurn involved a total of 444 east out of the Humber between 25th April and 5th May, with highs of 171 on 25th, 59 on 30th April, 108 on 3rd May and 63 the next day. The first returning birds arrived on 12th July, after which small numbers were logged almost daily until the end of September, with peaks of 39 on 22nd July, 104 on 13th, 76 on 14th August, and 43 on 19th September. After records spanning seven dates in October, including 15 on 14th, the last at Spurn was three on 1st November.

Inland the spring return began with singles at Fairburn on 13th April and Swillington the following day. Records were then scarce until an overland movement focused in the first week of May. Twelve passed through Nosterfield on 1st May, ten were at Fairburn on 2nd and 11 were at Winterset and 24 at Hatfield Moors on 3rd. The next day witnessed further passage, with seven at Farnham, five at Lingham and 23 north over Southfield Res. A party of eight north over Rother Valley CP on 5th May was the last sizeable group. There were several October records, which included three at Rother Valley CP from 2nd, with one of these lingering to 17th October. Additional birds included: a juvenile at Swillington on 13th October, another at Broomhill the following day and finally, one at Winterset on 17th October.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* **A**
Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder and passage migrant, less so in winter. BBS 1/222
A common seabird of the northern temperate oceans, susceptible to oiling.
Yorkshire continues to play host to the largest Guillemot colony in England stretching from Flamborough Head northwards to Scarborough.
Birds were present along the coast in small numbers throughout January and February. Although, the number of birds present was irregular, with thousands on some days and virtually none the next. Individual site maxima included 1000 at Flamborough on 6th January and 500 at Filey in mid-February, when two oiled birds also noted.
Returning birds reported on the breeding ledges from early March onwards, although attendance continued to be erratic until just before egg-laying commenced in April. During May several large flocks, presumably aggregating due to food, included 200 at Kettleness on 7th May and 63 at Spurn on 28th May.
There was no estimate of the number of breeding pairs at Bempton Cliffs, Flamborough or Filey this year. The last whole colony count of the Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA was in 2000, when 47,215 individuals counted. Fledglings were on the sea at Bempton Cliffs from late June, after which rafts of males, with their attendant young birds, were often seen feeding away from the breeding colonies; for example, 60 at Spurn on 26th July and 270 at Atwick from 8th-12th August.
Most birds had left the cliffs by mid-July, dispersing out of the area during August/September. Strong movements were reported from Spurn, reaching a peak of 1477 on 14th September, whilst 1290 flew south-east at Skinningrove on 25th September. Elsewhere, 250 were at Kettleness on 3rd November.
During this period several reports were received from estuaries, including singles at the Tees Barrage on 22nd August, Paull Holme Strays on 2nd September and again at the Tees Barrage on 22nd October. The number of birds remained low until the year-end, although 3000 were off Flamborough on 22nd December.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* **A**
Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder/passage migrant, less common in winter. BBS 0/222
Breeds in the North Atlantic: the subspecies *islandica* found in Britain winters further south.
Small numbers occasionally visited the breeding colonies in January/February, although most reports were restricted to sightings on the sea or on seawatches. Single figures reported from Spurn, up to 30 offshore at Filey and unusually, 55 at Redcar-Marske on 6th January. By the end of February, larger numbers were making occasional synchronised visits to the breeding grounds to re-establish their nest territories, including 500 at Bempton Cliffs on 26th February. Many birds were back on their breeding grounds by the end of March.
During the breeding season, the main concentrations were typically at the Bempton Cliffs – Flamborough Head colony, which held 8473 individuals in 2000, the last year that a full count was made. A smaller colony at Filey was not surveyed, but 68 adults were present at Boulby Cliffs on 5th April; it was estimated that 23 pairs bred at this growing colony, which was first noted in 1994. Within the colonies, the Razorbills often congregate in preferred inshore areas such as Thornwick Bay, Flamborough, where there were 400 birds on the water on 22nd April and 600 on 19th May.
Away from the breeding grounds sightings increased during May-July, with Spurn recording monthly maxima of 22 on 26th May, 25 on 6th June and 55 on 12th July. Elsewhere, 274 were feeding off Atwick on 22nd May, 200 at Kettleness on 15th July and 160 at Ulrome on 26th July. Fledglings appeared to remain much closer inshore than Guillemots, with many young reported in feeding flocks off Atwick from 29th July-8th August, when a maximum of 390 were present.
Autumn seawatches produced the following: 5200 passing Flamborough Head on 17th July, 400 on the sea at Skinningrove on 28th August, 500 at Kettleness on 8th September, 112 at Spurn on 19th, 580 on the sea at Filey on 23rd, 475 south-east past Skinningrove on 25th and 600 moving north at Long Nab on 27th September. Sightings became less frequent in October, although 230 at Flamborough on 4th November were noteworthy. December sightings were scarce, with single figures only reported from Spurn.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grille* **A** 3,0,2,0,6
Rare winter visitor and passage migrant
This circumpolar species breeds in northern Scotland where it is mostly sedentary, with only limited dispersal from its breeding colonies. It is a rare bird in the county.

A first-winter lingered off the end of South Gare (AK *et al.*) from 6th to 12th January – the first to stay around the site since 1991.
On 28th August, a bird in breeding plumage flew south at Spurn and landed on the sea (AAH). At Filey a first-winter spent most of the day just off the Brigg on 30th October (PRM *et al.*), a single flew north on the morning of 10th November (CCT *et al.*), a first-winter flew north at Flamborough on 14th November (PC: PAL: IM) and lastly, one flew south at Filey on 16th December (JS).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* **A**
Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea. The numbers recorded each year will clearly involve some double counting.
The year started with singles at South Gare on 5th January and at South Dykes, Flamborough on 25th January. The only other report in the first half was of two at Flamborough on 21st March.
The first report of the autumn was a single north at Scarborough on 18th September. A small and early movement was detected on 28th September when three birds flew north at Scarborough, two north at Flamborough and one north at Filey; the following day four were on the sea off Saltburn.
A steady movement involving small numbers was evident from Scarborough to Spurn on most days from 24th October until 6th November. This preceded one of the largest movements ever recorded, although the tallies along the Yorkshire coast were nothing compared with the record-breaking numbers off the Farne Islands.
The first and largest influx took place on 9th November, typically following strong northerly winds; a major northward movement included 2964 at Flamborough, 883 at Long Nab in eight hours, 254 at Filey and 227 at Spurn. This scale of movement continued for the next three days, with maxima of: 1252 Flamborough on 10th and 1000+ north at Filey Brigg and 1100 north at South Gare both on 11th. From 14th November the number of sightings tailed off, although almost daily reports were received until 29th, when two birds were off Scarborough.
During this remarkable period, there were many reports of exhausted birds being taken by gulls and Peregrine, or washed up dead along the coast, including ten picked up on the beach at Saltburn in one day. Inevitably, others were blown inland, including: 13 at the Humber Bridge on 10th November and singles flying around farmland at Ottringham on 11th, at North Cave Wetlands and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 12th, Potteric Carr on 13th and Ulley Res and Great Barugh, near Malton on 14th November.
The year's last report related to a single at Flamborough on 14th December.



Little Auks •
Colin Wilkinson

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* **A**
Amber list: fairly common breeder and common passage migrant
Breeds on the coasts of northern France, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland and the Arctic. Winters well out to sea.
Absent from much of the Yorkshire coast during January and February. Although one was at Filey on 15th January and two birds were found dead at Saltburn on 8th February.

Birds started to appear back in the area from the beginning of March, although sightings were unpredictable and numbers erratic. An early count of 131 was noted at Flamborough on 4th March. The number of sightings increased through the month, reaching a maximum of 280 at Flamborough on 6th April.

The Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head colony was last counted in 2000 when 2629 individuals were present. Whilst no count was made in 2007, anecdotal observations suggest that numbers are declining. It will always be difficult to obtain an accurate census of this colony due to viewing difficulties. A small colony exists from the cliffs north of Filey Brigg, where up to 70 birds were on the sea below the colony during the summer; however, no attempt was made to count the number of nesting pairs. Away from the colonies, 20 were recorded on several dates at Spurn in May and June.

The number of sightings increased dramatically in July as non-breeding birds arrived in the area prospecting for nest sites and breeding adults and families started to disperse. Flamborough reported a large post breeding build up with 9065 on 10th, 10,440 on 11th, 12,200 on 12th, 14,590 on 18th, 14,200 on 19th and 8460 on 27th July. A dramatic reduction in numbers then followed, with only 250 on 4th August. Elsewhere, 220 were at Long Nab on 1st July and 55 at Spurn on 12th July.

Numbers remained low through September and October with maxima of 274 at Flamborough on 27th and 112 at Spurn on 19th, where 70 birds on 17th October was last the significant count. In November Flamborough broke new ground with a record day count for that month of 55 on 10th, as well as 29 on 11th. From then on, single figures to the month end were more normal – singles at Long Nab on 9th and 11th November were unusual. The last report of the year was of a single at Flamborough on 13th December.

FERAL PIGEON/ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* **AC4**

A common breeding resident in towns and cities and along coastal cliffs

BBS 66/222: -17% (-16) 1994-2007, -12% (-1) 2006-07

Many would view the apparent decline quite favourably; again under recorded, but presumably still common in most of the urban areas. Very few records were submitted, but did include counts of 300 at the Albert Dock, Hull in January and 200 in Hull city centre in February. A flock of 170 frequented Halifax Bus Station on 25th January and a maximum of 400 were present during the year in Ripon. On the coast, 195 were near Newbiggin, Filey in September, 450 congregated near Scalby Lodge again in September and a large flock established on cliff top fields at Flamborough, with 600 there in November.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* **A**

Amber list: fairly common resident; some passage and immigration

BBS 57/222: +54% (-1) 1994-2007, -29% (-3) 2006-07

Local populations are sedentary, although Scandinavian birds may swell numbers in winter. Although the long-term trend in the county has been upwards, fewer were recorded in BBS surveys this year, and recently the population has probably stabilised.

Another under recorded species that is much more widespread in the west of the county than the east. In the first two months of the year high counts included 98 on Cononley Ings, up to 50 birds at Swillington Ings in the first week of January and 58 at Staveley NR. In the east there were 60 on Wykeham Ings on 7th January and 22 at Flamborough on 27th.

Although small numbers of breeding pairs were widespread, there were few indications of changes to breeding status, although records increased around Halifax, with reports from 42 sites. In addition there was a significant increase in the Winterset area, with five breeding territories reported.

In the west of the county high counts in the second period included: 48 at Redmires Res on 4th November, 40 at Winterset on 17th November and up to 70 at Swillington Ings. However, the largest flock was at Thrybergh CP, where 500 were present on 20th and 22nd December.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

BBS 194/222: +86% (+22) 1994-2007, +24% (+3) 2006-07

Continues to rapidly increase in range and population, an increasingly common urban species and an agricultural pest in many areas. The spread of oilseed rape has been shown to promote overwinter survival, and this crop has increased in the east of the county.

In the first winter period notable counts included 500 at Todmorden Edge Wood on 21st January, 4700 at Jumble Hole Clough on 24th and 1000 in the Cononley area on 25th January. Also during the same month there were 500 at both Thrybergh CP and at Birkham Wood, Harrogate and 250 at Ulley CP. In February, 1000

were at Ripon Parks on 3rd, 500 at Eastwood on 8th February, 400 over Elland Gravel Pits on 10th, 800 at Drewton on 17th, with 400 at Fairburn on 19th. Top March counts included 300 at Potteric Carr on 11th, 350 at Fairburn on 10th and 562 Slingsby, Ryedale on 18th. There was some indication of coastal passage, with numbers increasing at Flamborough from 270 on 17th March to a maximum of 370 on 24th April; a total of 1370 birds flew south at Spurn between 1st February and 26th May.

As expected, numbers were highest in the latter months of the year with 350 at Beal Carrs in late September. The subsequent month witnessed 300 at Ulley Res on 1st October, 1300 roosted near to Redmires Res on 18th, 400 flew over Newbiggin, Filey on 24th and 500 were at Staveley on 23rd October.

Visible migration over the Bradford area produced 9601 over Caldene Fields in 16 days, including a record 'site count' of 5076 on 4th October and 7234 over Thornton Moor Res in 11 days, including 2560 on 3rd November. In the Sheffield area counts at Rod Moor included 2215 on 18th, 3870 on 20th October and 18,835 on 4th November. Further evidence of visible migration came at Redmires with counts of 792 on 22nd, 1668 on 29th and 2535 on 30th October, with 1390 on 2nd and 6000 on 4th November; in Calderdale, 626 flew south over Fly Flats on the latter date. Passage at Spurn was light, with 313 south and 148 u-turning between 5th October and 12th November.

Counts in November included: 800 at Worsbrough on 3rd; an unprecedented arrival of over 1000 at Malham Tarn Woods on 16th; 800 at Winterset, also on 16th; 700 at Pulfin Bog and 1000 roosting at Ulley CP on 17th and 690 at Flamborough on 25th. In December 600 were at Hunmanby Gap at the year end, up to 2500 were noted at Nosterfield, with 2600 at Flamborough on 12th. Also in December, there were 500 at Scalby, including a leucistic bird on 27th, 550 at Went Ings on 5th and a maximum of 1000 at Fairburn on 12th. There were some notable winter roost counts at the year end, including: 3000 at Burnt Wood, Sheffield; 500 at Eccup Res; 1100 at Harewood Park; 700 in Swillington Park; 450 at Temple Newsam and 2100 at Winterset on 30th.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* **A**

Common resident. BBS 87/222: -13% (+27) 1994-2007, -19% (-9) 2006-07

Having arrived in Britain in 1952, this species continues to expand in the north-west of Britain, but its population in Yorkshire is now fairly stable. Numbers reported in BBS surveys were lower this year, but not significantly so.

Despite the BBS trends, increases were reported from the New Earswick area and at Winterset. Higher counts included 49 in Filey on 5th January, whilst at Yeadon Tarn maxima were 22 in the early months and 43 later in the year. There were 76 at Beighton Marsh NR, Sheffield on 6th September, with numbers increasing to 115 at the end of the month and 100 at Parkgate during the same period. At Fairburn Ings numbers peaked in autumn, with 64 on 19th and 23rd September with between 35 and 50 individuals throughout October, decreasing to between 16 and 46 birds in November and December. There were maximum counts in the Winterset area of 39 on October 6th and 60 at Burton Leonard, Harrogate on 2nd November. The highest count in the Scarborough area was 52 at Ravenscar on 30th November, while a roost at Skelton Castle on 6th December held 74. Roosting numbers in Filey were much lower than previous years in the final quarter, with a maximum of 28 on 7th December.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce and declining breeding summer visitor. BBS 2/222

The West European populations migrate south-west to winter in the drought-stricken Sahel zone. The national population has fallen by 66% since 1994, contracting eastward and southward and it is becoming increasingly scarce in Yorkshire.

For a species clearly in serious decline, reports continued to drop. The first arrived at Spurn on 23rd April, followed by one at Winterset on 28th. In May there were singles at Old Moor on 8th, Beal Carrs on 15th, Scalby Lodge on 10th and 14th, one at Bradley Hall Farm 20th, the only record from the Halifax area, at Thurcroft Marsh on 21st and Goodmanham Dale on 31st. It was the worst year ever at Flamborough with records on only four dates in May: on 14th, two on 20th and 21st, with a single remaining the following day. Also in May, singles were at Paul Holme Strays on 16th, 18th/19th May and there were only two records from the Harrogate area, singles at Thorpe Underwood on 3rd and Nosterfield on 20th May. Around Leeds a single was present at Garforth on 8th May, with one or two noted on several days up to 18th July. There were almost daily records at Spurn from 8th May and then almost daily until 26th September. Filey's sole spring record referred to a single on 8th June; elsewhere there were records from Anston Grange Farm on 10th June and at Potteric Carr on 24th and two on 28th June. In July there were singles at High Eske on 10th, Cloughton Pond on 16th and Thrybergh CP on 22nd.

Very few breeding records were received, but included two pairs at Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit and Spurn, with probable breeding pairs at Tophill Low and Watton NNR. There were records from a number of areas during

the breeding season: with three calling males daily at Thorne Moors between 1st May and 24th July and seven calling on 23rd May and five noted on 11th June. Nearby two were on Hatfield Moors on 20th May, with singles still present into August. In the York area, three were seen and another heard on Yearsley Moor on 30th May, with three still present on 4th June. In addition a single visited Long Marston on 5th June and singles were at Allerthorpe Gravel Pits on 2nd and 24th June, with two on 27th. The dramatic decline was reflected around Scarborough, with only three singing males in Wykeham on 8th June, a pair at Wykeham nurseries in June and two singing in Harwood Dale on 9th July. There were two probable breeding pairs and a single calling male in the Winterset area, compared to 14 pairs that were present as recently as 2003. It now no longer appears to be breeding in the Leeds area.

In the Rotherham area, there were a series of records from North Anston Pit Top: up to two on 18th, 21st and 23rd May, with three on 3rd June and two on 16th July. There were also records from the Went Ings area, where singles on seven dates between 5th May and 22nd September, with two present on 21st August. At North Cave there were two from 13th–18th May, followed by singles on 1st June, 16th and 17th August and a late single on 9th and 14th September. There were also records from Pulfin Bog on 16th June; 8th and 10th July; 8th, 11th, 27th and 29th August, with the last record on 2nd September. Filey hosted the last from 29th September until 2nd October.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **C1E*** – ,21,9,14,12

Rare breeding species and vagrant/escape

Due to increases in the feral British breeding population and to keep in line with BOURC’s decision to give it a C1E* categorisation, this species was moved into the main list in 2004. All Yorkshire records may still be attributable to escapes, however, and until a self-supporting population is established, or ringing evidence proves dispersal from self-sustaining populations elsewhere in England, it is not yet ‘officially’ on the YNU’s Yorkshire Category C list.

In the north of the county two females were present at Acklam Hall, the site where they successfully bred in 2006. Both females were present until early March, with one bird remaining throughout the summer. An adult male, two females and a juvenile were present on 3rd September, again suggesting successful breeding took place locally. The group then increased to seven birds, but there were no further sightings after 21st September. Nearby singles were noted at Nunthorpe and Skelton Castle.

Sightings of at least one individual, a male, were regular in the Sheffield area at either end of the year. Most sightings were confined to the Sothall (sporadically 28th January–24th March) and Millhouses areas (30th January–13th February), with isolated records from Rother Valley CP on 1st January and 27th April. In the second half, there were regular sightings in the Heeley area of Sheffield from 19th October–29th November.

In the Rotherham area two were in Carlton Wood on 2nd February, followed by a single at Hardwick on 22nd July.

Elsewhere a single overflowed Ripon on 25th January, with probably the same in Littlethorpe the following day. Two flew through Thornwick Bay on 12th April, with a single near Sand Hutton on 17th May. In the Bradford area, a single frequented Thornton Moor Reservoir in mid–August; presumably the same bird was present again on 8th September, with it or another at Shipley Glen on the same date. The final record came from Beal Carrs on 21st November.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor

BBS 42/222: –46% (–37) 1994–2007, +8% (–10) 2006–07

A widespread Palearctic species that winters south of the Sahara. Numbers counted in BBS surveys were comparable to 2006 in the county, but overall there has been a long-term and steady national decline since the 1980s.

The first appeared at Great Ouseburn on 13th, followed by new arrivals at Scaling Dam and Strensall on 15th, Winterset on 16th, Paul Holme Strays and Bradford on 17th; the latter the earliest ever in the club recording area. Additional April records included calling birds at Thrybergh CP on 20th, Tophill Low on 22nd, at Potteric Carr from 24th and Ravenscar on 27th; singles also noted on three dates at both Flamborough and Spurn during the month. Calling birds were widespread from May onwards and were present at traditional haunts in the north of the county including Eston Moor, the moorland edge of Guisborough Forest and elsewhere on the North York Moors.

Noted regularly at Potteric Carr; up to three were on Thorne Moors, up to four at Scaling Dam, three at Winterset and at nine sites in Scarborough area. Up to four were present at Spurn between mid–May until

mid–August, including six on 14th May and five on 8th and 28th June. There were records from seven locations in Upper Wharfedale, 11 sites in the Halifax area between 29th April and 26th June, from 28 sites in Sheffield area between 20 April and 19th June, but only three records of single birds at Malham Tarn. In the Harrogate area calling birds were at 18 widely scattered localities, while there were five breeding territories at Fairburn. However, records were confined to only two sites in May and three in June around Leeds.

There were records on 30 days around Old Moor from 19th April and 30th June and considered to be 26 different birds around Bradford until 7th July. The only notable decline reported was from the Rotherham area, where there were only 11 records compared to 21 in 2006. At Pulfin Bog there were daily records from 25th April until 9th June, but never more than two. There were several records from the Scalby area and a slight increase in records from the Filey area, with 11 records during May. At Flamborough there were records on 11 dates in June, with two on 15th/16th. In July one managed to escape after being attacked by a Peregrine at Scalby Lodge on 9th, there were three singles at Flamborough with the last on 14th and one at Scalby Lodge on 24th. Late records included a juvenile on Carr Naze, Filey on 1st August. September witnessed singles at Swillington Ings on 2nd, Spurn on 7th, Winterset on 8th, with the last at Spurn on 15th September.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* **A**

Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, rare in north–west. BBS 9/222

The population of this globally widespread species is thought to be increasing locally, particularly in the east, where nest–box schemes have proved successful, although nationally there is evidence of decline. Under-recorded on BBS visits.

The number of breeding records continues to increase, with one successful pair in the north of the county and numbers also appear to be increasing in the west; with a pair fledging two young constituting the first breeding record for the Halifax area in 20 years. In addition, there were signs of nest box occupancy in the Bradford area, which also bodes well. Eight pairs nested in the Harrogate area, with birds recorded at five other sites outside the breeding season. In the Leeds area, pairs bred at Swillington Ings and near Yeadon, with probable breeding at three other sites. At least two pairs bred in the Sorby area and two pairs bred in nest boxes near Winterset, with one pair fledging broods of four and two, and a second pair fledging six from a single brood. There are now at least 20 pairs in the Barnsley Borough, with the likelihood of additional pairs also present. Three pairs bred in SK58 near Rotherham, with another pair reportedly breeding successfully elsewhere in the area; there were seven records from Sheffield, including one bird carrying prey in the middle of May.

The stronghold appears to be in the east of the county, with numerous reports from VC61 in particular. Evidence of population density was illustrated by five pairs breeding in the Tophill Low area, including two pairs on the reserve and one pair at Watton NNR. There were breeding records from a number of sites in the Scarborough area, where the species was reported to be doing well and two pairs bred in Filey.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* **C1**

Uncommon resident in south and west, scarce in east. BBS 12/222

Introduced into England as recently as 1842, but a downturn in recent years suggests a moderate long-term decline. Recorded in six fewer BBS squares this year, despite the increase in coverage by 31 squares.

There was a wide scatter of reports, with the majority as usual, from the west. There was with an increase in the Halifax area with records from 36 sites; a minimum of six pairs fledged 13 young around Bradford and at least three pairs were in the Cononley area, with singles recorded at a further six sites. There were widespread records from the Dales, although there were fewer records from Malham Tarn area. In the north of the county there were regular sightings at three sites, but it is likely that many more were unreported. Elsewhere, there were several breeding records in the Leeds area. A decrease in records from Eccup Res was attributed to increased disturbance by human activity. There were virtually daily sightings from Fairburn, an increasing number of records from the Winterset area and widespread records in the Harrogate area, where six pairs were confirmed to have nested. A pair bred at Old Moor and probably did so at Broomhill. It is considered widespread around Sheffield and there were at least 11 territories around Worsbrough.

There was a resident pair near North Cave from mid March until the end of the year and also several records from Paul Holme Strays, two at Watton NNR in late May, but only two records from the Went Ings area on 14th May and 10th August. There was a decrease in records from Ryedale and distributed only thinly in the Scarborough area. Three or four pairs bred at Flamborough, but there were only three records from Filey. The only records from the Spurn area were: in Church Field on 7th January; roosting on bales at Long Bank in mid January; and up to two in the Peter Lane area in March/April.



TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* A

Fairly common and widespread resident. BBS 6/222

Very under-recorded, and not picked up on BBS surveys.

This species remains widespread with breeding records from across the county; it often goes relatively unrecorded and, therefore, it is difficult to determine trends. There were confirmed breeding records at Guisborough Forest, at least one pair in Filey and reported as still common in the Scarborough area. Confirmed breeding also took place at Broomhead Res, two pairs at Midhope Res, in the Stocksbridge area, Tophill Low and Underbank Res. There were also: 23 records from Went Ings; reports from 33 sites in the Halifax area, almost twice the number of 2006; an increase in records from Bradford, where 13 confirmed pairs fledged 30 young and records from a further 39 sites. Three pairs each fledged three young at Malham Tarn, there were ten confirmed breeding pairs in the Harrogate area and confirmed breeding at three sites around Winterset, with two probable breeding pairs at another; recorded on 25 days during the year at Broomhill and Old Moor. There was no change in status at Tophill Low, where two pairs again fledged young. One at

Spurn from 5th October to 24th November was picked up emaciated and later died; finally, there was a rare sighting from the North Cave Wetlands reserve on 9th December.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* A

Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and irruptive winter visitor. BBS o/222

Very little data available, and very under-recorded, but population may be stable. Scandinavian migrants of this Holarctic circumpolar species are seen on the coast in autumn.

There were very few reports of winter roosts, but singles were noted in SK58 during January, at Lingham Lake on 29th January, three were at Carlton Marsh on 5th February, up to two at Fairburn in January/March and a maximum of five at Swillington between January and March. Migrants logged at Spurn on 23rd March and 19th May, with another at Sammy's Point on 4th April.

Although it is likely that this species remains hugely under-recorded, there were a number of breeding records. A juvenile was at Scaling Dam in late June, one pair bred at Carlton Marsh, with another two pairs nesting nearby, one pair fledged two young at Midhope Res and one pair bred at Whitwell Moor. In the Rotherham area, three pairs bred at one site, six birds were present elsewhere in June and a single frequented a third possible breeding site on 6th August. Following comprehensive survey work in the Halifax area, seven breeding pairs were located and fledged at least 15 young. In the Bradford area, breeding was confirmed at three sites where 25, four and two young fledged respectively and all the young were ringed; elsewhere in the Bradford area, one pair failed at another site and there were birds recorded from two other locations during the year. Three pairs were located in Harrogate area and one pair bred at Malham Tarn. Birds were present during the breeding season at two sites in the Winterset area, with at least one pair fledging three young and on both Thorne and Hatfield Moors. During the summer, adults were recorded at three locations within the York recording area, with young heard at one of these sites. A juvenile was seen in June at Wilthorpe Marsh, a pair bred at Bolton Ings, there were two breeding records from Sheffield area and one, possibly two, pairs bred at Fairburn.

It was a very poor year for coastal migrants, beginning with a single at Buckton on 25th March. In October there were singles at Boulby on 7th, in off at Atwick on 19th, and Filey and Flamborough on 24th. There were only four records at Spurn: one found dead on 3rd August, singles in off the sea on 20th October and 3rd November, with one at the Point on 15th/16th November.

There were few roosts reported in the second winter period, with only one at Swillington in mid-November but not again; a single appeared at Filey on 14th December and one location near Rotherham held three on 26th and a single on 29th December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flamens* A

Amber list: rare moorland breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 4/222

Recorded in five fewer BBS squares this year, although the population fluctuates according to the vole cycle. Wintering birds on the coast and estuaries include continental immigrants.

It was a very poor year throughout the county. At Swillington Ings numbers were considerably down, with singles on 19th, 21st and 29th January only. Elsewhere, one at Brough Airfield on 14th January, Old Cote Moor, Upper Wharfedale on 16th, Bellflask Quarry on 19th, Crosscliffe on 26th and Filey on 29th. One in the Cononley area on 5th January was only one local record for the year and similarly there were very few birds near Halifax early on. Singles were present at Reighton Ings from 2nd January until 24th March and at West Carlton on sporadic dates from mid-January to late March, with two present on 19th January. A single frequented Went Ings on 3rd and 5th February, with another on Hatfield Moors on 4th February and a lone individual at Blacktoft on 11th February. Three overwintered on setaside at Flamborough, although there were only three records from Spurn on 11th February, 7th March and 6th April. In March singles were at Went Ings on 11th and Filey on 13th and 27th, while possible migrants were at Coatham Marsh and Fairburn on 24th April.

Although 13 birds were reported from ten locations around Bradford, there were no signs of breeding. However, it was confirmed in the Halifax area, where two pairs bred and additional pairs may have been overlooked. A pair summered in the Harrogate area, but they probably didn't breed and singles were noted on single dates only at three other sites in June. Casual records in the Yorkshire Dales included territorial pairs at Thornton Rust, Askrigg Common, Wether Fell, Mossdale and Malham Tarn. In the Sheffield area there were 29 records during the year, including a breeding pair.

There was one record from Swillington Ings on 22nd July, but no further sightings until 9th December when two remained to the year end. One was recorded on two dates in August at Went Ings in August, with one at Great Ouseburn on 26th of the same month. There were only three records from Blacktoft in the second half of the year; one each in August, September and October. The Rotherham area reported larger numbers than usual in the second winter period with up to three regularly at Silverwood Pit Top from 16th October to the year end and four on 19th October; also in Rotherham, a single was at Carr from 28th November until 2nd December and five were in residence at Thurcroft Pit Top during December.

Migrants reappeared at Spurn on 6th, 29th and 30th September. Further north, one came in off the sea at Filey on 6th October, with another present between 15th and 19th October and a different individual on 25th. Elsewhere, there were singles at Cromer Point on 19th October and in off at Spurn on 18th, 19th and 20th October, with a single present on 21st. Two came in off the sea on 3rd November at Spurn, within additional singles similarly at Filey and Scarborough. An influx on 11th November included an impressive eight at Spurn, two at Flamborough and a single at Filey. Two more made landfall at Flamborough on 21st November, after which one looked set to overwinter there.

Inland, one was in Upper Littondale on 12th November and up to four were in the Scammonden Valley during November. Numbers remained low at the end of the year, with singles at Pugneys CP on 2nd, Went Ings on 17th, two at Starr Carr on 19th (year's only site record), at Spurn on 26th and finally, at Brough Airfield on 31st December.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* A

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS o/222

This Palearctic species winters in East and southern Africa, with a British population of 4,600 pairs.

An established site in the Bradford area recorded birds throughout the summer, after the first returned early on 6th May; up to four were present until the last sighting on 13th August. Churring males returned to the Guisborough area by 17th May; up to three held territory and were present until 13th August. The main stronghold remains the forest clearings on the North Yorkshire Moors and birds were present here from 22nd May. One or two churring males were present at Wharnccliffe, Cowell Flats, Emlin Moor and Agden Side near Sheffield; at the latter site a pair with two eggs suffered nest predation. In the York area, a male churred on Allertorpe Common in June, but none were present on Yearsley Moor for the first time in several years; probably due to vegetation encroaching into the favoured area. A census located 34 churring males on Thorne Moors and 32 similarly on nearby Hatfield Moors.

Coastal migrants included one in off the sea at Beacon Ponds on 12th May. During the autumn, one flushed on the Outer Head at Flamborough on 21st August and another was disturbed from roost on a development site at Primrose Valley, Filey on 12th September. The year's last used artificial light from street lamps to feed on the edge of Flamborough village on 3rd October.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* **A** 1,1,0,2,1
Rare coastal passage migrant; 44 previous records
This species breeds from North-west Africa through the Mediterranean to eastern Asia, with western forms wintering south of the Sahara.
A cliff top field at Saltwick Nab hosted a single on 23rd and 24th October (JABe: AF *et al.*). It loosely associated with a flock of over 40 Skylarks and occurred on a typical autumn date; however, the location was anything but usual, as the species remains a rarity away from Spurn.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding visitor and passage migrant. BBS o/222
A partial migrant, the small UK population has recently expanded northwards, possibly due to climate change. Migrants included a single at Spurn on 21st February, which constituted the first ever for that month at Spurn. The next occurred at Rother Valley on 9th April, followed by another at Spurn on 23rd April. The final spring migrant headed north over South Landing, Flamborough on 16th May. In the latter period, one at Broomhead Res on 20th October was followed by one over Lemonroyd Lock on 21st (the first in the Leeds area since 1999). These odd inland sightings just preceded a few along the coast; one was at Flamborough on 25th October, followed by others at Church Field, Spurn the next day, by the lighthouse, Flamborough on 3rd November and finally, two at Spurn on 4th.
Breeding birds returned to the Central Science Laboratory at Sand Hutton on 19th February, when two singing males were present. Whilst one pair were observed feeding young in May, possibly up to three pairs bred and the last sighting came on 10th July. Several birds were also present at three other sites within the York recording area and breeding was likely to have been successful at two of these. In addition, males held territory at a number of sites in East and South Yorkshire and there was no indication of significant changes to status from those areas.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 159/222: +39% (-13) 1994-2007, +16% (+1) 2006-07
This Palearctic species has been in long-term national and local decline. However, in the county it seems to have slowly recovered from a low base in 1994 and reports suggest that the breeding population is now more stable. Early winter flocks included 39 at Filey on 1st January, 30 at Wykeham Ings on 5th, 47 at Flamborough on 27th January, and 37 at Soil Hill on 15th March. Numbers continued to build at several sites from early March, with 80 at Flamborough by 23rd March. On 4th April 35 were at Hanlith, Malham, 60 were at Lawkland Moss, Settle the following day and 51 were at Densholme Farm, Withernwick on 7th, reducing to 28 on 1st May.
At Spurn 358 headed south, with seven in off between 29th January and 31st May, with 73 south on 21st February and 32 on 7th March the largest counts.
A decrease in breeding numbers again noted at Winterset, where 37 territories were recorded (45 in 2006). However, numbers increased at Fairburn, with 102 pairs present, compared with 67 territories in 2006.
Post-breeding flocks included 130 at Old Moor on 23rd September and 100 at Filey on 28th, while there were several notable counts in October: 85 at Fairburn Ings on 14th, 80 at Southfield Res on 18th, 41 at Thorne Moors on 21st, 180 at Flamborough on 23rd and 80 at Harthill Res on 29th. Good numbers remained at Filey, with cliff top stubbles holding 65 on 2nd November, 93 on 3rd and 70 on 14th. At Beal Carrs there were 25 on 25th October, 40 on 6th November, 50 on 22nd, 100 on 17th December reducing to 45 on 29th. Southerly passage over Spurn totalled 1107 between 18th September and 3rd December, with an additional 53 in off; the only three-figure counts involved 137 on 16th October and 250 on 27th. In addition, 50 flew south over Hatfield Moors on 16th October.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* **A** 88,72,36,19,10
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.
Another very disappointing year for a species that seems to be becoming dramatically rarer over recent years. The wintering individual at Swalesmoor, Calderdale first seen in December 2006 remained at Pule Hill, Holmfield until 26th March and often associated with Skylarks. The only other records in the first half referred to spring migrants at Filey on 5th May and Spurn on 12th.
The first to return was a single in the Beacon Lane/Ponds area from 6th-8th October. One appeared at Scalby Lodge Pond on 15th, followed by one south at Spurn on 27th October. Singles made landfall at Flamborough on 7th and 17th November and a single flew south at Spurn on 21st. December's sole record referred to two at Beacon Ponds on 1st December.



Shore Lark o
Ray Scally

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **A**
Amber list: fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 14/222
The population of this sub-Saharan migrant is stable or slightly increasing.
The first bird arrived at Thrybergh CP on 5th March, quickly followed by singles at Pugney's GP on 6th, Staveley NR on 7th and Potteric Carr and Meadow Lake NR on 9th. Five were at Swillington Ings and six at Farnham GP on 11th, while Filey recorded the first coastal record on 13th. Birds became widespread by the end of March. Two hundred were at Farnham GP on 10th April, however large numbers only appeared in the latter half of April, unlike 2006, when numbers were widespread early in the month. There were 400 at Tophill Low on 19th and next day counts of 130 at Worsbrough and 200 at Old Moor and Fairburn Ings, 300 at Swillington Ings and 200 at Winterset. In the last week 120 were at Pugney's GP on 25th, 200 at Knotford Nook on 26th, 100 at Bolton on Swale on 27th, 130 at Pool on 30th. Tophill provided the largest spring counts, with 1700 on 28th May and 2500 present on 14th June. Spring passage at Spurn was considered disappointing, with 417 south by the end of June and a peak of 63 on 15th April.
Hole counts at breeding colonies included: 27 at Wykeham Lakes, 40 at Stoupe Beck, 74 at Jackson's Bay, 80 at Cromer Point, 35 at Central Science Laboratories, but only 18 at the Filey colony, due to a landslide. Established colonies were occupied at Barden Bridge, Ben Rhydding, Strid Wood and Pool Paper Mills, where 375 young were ringed from approximately 80 nests. Colonies along the R Ure were washed out in the May floods, as was the one on the river Rye at Helmsley, although many holes were re-excavated. At Farnham GP 79 holes in the 'wall' produced young by 3rd June, with 40 pairs having second broods in July.
With the exception of Blacktoft, post-breeding numbers were rather low with 250 at Fairburn on 22nd July, 1000 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd August, 800 at Swillington Ings on 26th; however, Blacktoft recorded 10,000 on 31st July. September counts included 100 at Hay-a-Park GP on 1st and 100 at Tophill Low on 24th. Autumn passage at Spurn was also considered to be poor, with 954 south between 1st July and 6th October (the year's last in the county), with high counts of 73 on 18th July and 120 on 20th September.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 170/222: +58% (+25) 1994-2007, -5% (-9) 2006-07
The population each year is variable, perhaps depending on factors affecting wintering areas in South Africa and migration routes.

The first to return were at Silverwood Colliery Tip and Pugney’s GP on 14th March, Beswick on 15th. None then appeared until singles at Dewsbury SW on 26th, Blackmoorfoot Res on 28th, High Batts NR, Old Moor and Southfield Res on 29th and on most inland waters by end of the month. The first coastal records related to a single at Filey on 5th April and two at Spurn on 6th. There were few large aggregations with 150 at Swillington Ings on 20th and a similar number at Boulby on 21st. Passage through Spurn was light with 7372 south between 6th April and 24th June. The highest counts included 500 on 1st May, 635 on 6th, 1000 on 12th and 580 on 15th. Elsewhere feeding flocks numbered: 100 at Fairburn Ings on 6th May, 100 at Kettleness on 7th, 300 at Swillington Ings on 14th, 300 at Filey on 17th and 150 at Cononley Ings on 19th.

The only appreciable count in June was 180 at Flamborough Head on 23rd, then few notable parties until 100 at Filey on 11th August, 150 at Southfield Res on 21st and 300 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd, 1000 at Flask Lakes, 740 at Flamborough and 100 at Ogden Res on 30th August. In September there were 120 at Jumble Hole Clough and 300 at Southfield Res on 6th, 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st, 300 at Ogden Res on 22nd when 453 were at Snailsden Edge, 400 at Winterset on 23rd and 150 at Cononley Ings on 30th. Following scattered late records in October, the last were singles at Flamborough and Skipsea on 3rd November and at Spurn on 7th.

Passage over Thornton Moor totalled 3728 in September, with daily maximum counts of 675, 758, 995 and 1055, whilst Denholme Clough recorded 1482 on passage, with a daily maximum of 746. It was estimated that 8000 passed through Old Moor during September. Spurn logged 7892 south between 4th July and 7th November, with easily the best count coming on 25th August, when 4300 flew through.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* **A**

Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 64/222: +10% (+2) 1994–2007, –18% (–16) 2006–07

This trans-Saharan migrant appears to be in long-term decline across Europe, but BBS data suggests an increase in England since the late 1990s. However, 2007 was the second year in a row with decreased occurrences reported in BBS squares in the county.

A single over Farnham GP on 30th March preceded one at Scalby Beck on 2nd April, followed by two at Bradford on 6th, singles at Derwent Edge and Cudworth on 7th, Worsborough on 8th and Flamborough and Thrybergh CP on 9th. There were a few double-figure counts, but the first large gatherings were 200 at Loshpotts GP on 26th, 300 at Fairburn Ings on 6th May, 450 there on 14th and 500 on 27th, 450 at Tophill Low and 300 at Winterset on 28th. These were followed by 125 at Flamborough Head on 1st June, 800 at Tophill Low on 14th and 160 at Flamborough on 30th.

Autumn numbers were rather low with August bests of: 100 at Skipton SW on 5th, 300 at Old Moor on 16th, 120 at Fleet Lane on 18th, 130 at Jumble Hole Clough on 22nd, 200 at Flamborough on 23rd, 140 at Carr Naze, Filey and 350 at Flamborough on 26th and 100 at Adel Dam on 30th August. In September three-figure counts included: 300 at Filey on 4th, 100 at Ringstone Edge and 270 at Old Moor on 7th, 110 at Cononley Ings on 9th, 100 at Sykes House, Fadmoor on 13th, 100 at Skipton SW, Cononley and Shibden on 15th, 140 at Thorne Moors on 18th, 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st and Rodley NR on 23rd when there were also an additional 171 at Potteric Carr. Numbers rapidly decreased with the last birds being nine at Old Moor on 14th October, one at Buckton on 21st, eight at Flamborough on 28th one at Filey on 30th. Spurn claimed the year’s final individual on 3rd November.

In line with other hirundines, southerly passage at Spurn was disappointing with just 2,123 south between 1st July and 1st November. There were only six treble-figure counts: 200 on 25th August, 670 on 5th, 228 on 7th, 196 on 14th, 152 on 20th and 112 on 23rd September.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* **A**

2,9,7,1,3

Rare passage migrant; 59 previous records (65 birds)

Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.

There were three singles this year, all of which were confined to a two-day period in the second half of April. The first tracked north-west with Swallows at Boulby Cliffs at 0830hrs on 21st April (MRKA) and, presumably a different individual, then flew south at 1000hrs over North Dyke at Flamborough on the same date (RBa: PC *et al.*). Typically Spurn failed to miss out, with one south past the gate at Spurn at 0915hrs on 22nd April (GP).

RICHARD’S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **A**

12,10,28,10,12

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland

The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September on route to uncertain wintering grounds.

All records were from coastal locations, with numbers similar to recent years. The only spring record was of a single at Flamborough on 25th May (PAL).

All autumn reports refer to singles, with the first at Grimston (TI) and on the cliff top at Upton (MRKA) on 6th October and another north over Ness Point, Robin Hood’s Bay the next day (JABe *et al.*). On 14th October one flew north past the lighthouse at Spurn (LJD), with another discovered on the Top Fields at Filey, which then remained until 15th (CCT *et al.*). Fields at Scalby Beck, Scarborough hosted the next from 17th–18th October (MF *et al.*). Further records included one in off along the North Cliffs at Filey on 20th October (CCT *et al.*), one that lingered near Hunley Hall GC, Brotton on 22nd–23rd (DAM *et al.*) another at Flamborough Golf Course on 26th October (AMA: IM) and one at Beacon Lane, Spurn on 3rd November (JC). The last two were at Clubley’s Field, Spurn on 19th November (AAH) and by Bluethroat Dyke, Flamborough on 21st November (PC).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* **A**

2,2,1,1,1

Rare coastal passage migrant; 23 previous records

European range restricted to North Urals, although widespread from Central Siberia east to Japan, wintering in southern China and in SE Asia.

On 22nd April one visited a garden at Thorngumbald east of Hull (LH *et al.*). This constituted the county’s first spring record and was certainly an unusual garden visitor which would have eluded identification without excellent photographic evidence. First noted at mid-day, it was still present late afternoon before flying off and wasn’t seen again.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor to north and west. BBS 4/222

A nationally declining migrant from south of the Sahara that breeds throughout most of the Palearctic including arctic Scandinavia, but rarely in Ireland. Its range has been contracting in England, and has largely disappeared from the east of the county.

The first returning bird was recorded at Pit House West, Sheffield on 11th April. A week later two were at Spurn on 19th April, heralding a more widespread arrival over the next few days with two singing at Wheata Woods, Sheffield. Singles also appeared at Scalby and Calderdale on 21st April. By the end of April most birds appeared to be established in their breeding territories.

Typically, peak numbers at both Spurn and Flamborough occurred in May, after the main influx of local breeding birds and associated with south-easterly winds. This again suggests that these late birds may be drift migrants on their way to Northern Europe. At Spurn, a total of 36 birds were reported on 16 dates, with the last a single on 17th May. The pattern of movement was similar at Flamborough, where a total of 13 birds were reported on nine days. The first were two on 25th April, with a peak count of three on 13th May and none after two the following day. Elsewhere, isolated migrants included one at Swillington Ings on 6th May and Filey on 20th May.

Anecdotal observations suggest that the population of this declining breeding species may have stabilised. Reports of singing birds in the core breeding areas at least equaled the 2006 population, with seven at both Sandwith Moor and Wharnccliffe, six males at Dalby Forest and four at Timble Ings. No apparent change in status was reported from the North York Moors and Scarborough areas. Six were present on Skipworth Common on 10th June, ten were singing on Strensall Common on 25th May, with another in the York area at Yearsley Moor on 30th May.

The first returning migrant flew over Spurn on 18th July. Thereafter, only small numbers were recorded at Spurn, with a total of just 35 reported on 21 days, including maxima of five on 6th August and six on 9th September. The poor autumn migration was reflected at Scarborough where none were recorded, Filey, with just a single on 26th September and at Flamborough, where only four were reported on three dates with a best of two on 17th August.

Inland, the picture was much the same along the east side of the Pennines from sites that have traditionally reported good movements of this species. The first autumn migrant was reported on 12th August, at Roils Head, Halifax, with a maximum of five dropping down in misty conditions on 18th August and two on 23rd August. Three juveniles were ringed at Agden, Sheffield, on 26th August, two birds flew south over Redmires on 2nd and 9th September and seven were at Skipton SW on 23rd September. Elsewhere singles, typically moving between south and west, were reported from the north-east Leeds area and from Southfield and Winterset Reservoirs on two dates. The latest reports were of singles south-west over Thornton Moor on 30th September and Spurn on 3rd October.

The general situation continues to worsen, with very few reported from the Halifax and Leeds areas, whilst it was the worst year on record around Bradford.

The first returned at Scalby Lodge on 8th April, closely followed by singles at Nosterfield NR and Southfield Res the following day and then Old Moor and Spurn on 11th April. Thereafter up to five were daily at Spurn, until spring's last on 13th June. Southbound 'Flava' wagtails totalled 354 between 15th April and 31st May at Spurn. The movement peaked in late April and early May and included: 53 on 23rd and 55 on 24th April; 61 on 6th, 31 on 7th and 29 on 8th May. Elsewhere, maxima in this period included: eight at North Cave on 16th April, 14 at Southfield Res on 17th April, 12 at Flamborough on 21st and 11 at both Filey on 22nd and Silverwood Lagoons, Rotherham, on 30th April. Flocks continued to be reported into early May, with 33 at Nosterfield NR on 4th and 11 at both Flamborough and Silverwood Lagoons on 7th May.

In the Yorkshire Dales National Park, there were 13 confirmed breeding pairs and a maximum of 24 males and 16 females in Littondale, Malham Moor and mid-Wharfedale; this constituted the second best year since the survey started in 2000 and only one pair less than in 2006. Amongst others, breeding also confirmed in the Harrogate, Wakefield, Craven, York and Beal Carrs areas and from the Magnesium limestone ridge around Rotherham and Doncaster.

Post-breeding flocks were evident from early June, with 12 at Silverwood Lagoons on 3rd June, where numbers peaked at 17 on 8th July. Impressive numbers congregated at Blacktoft, with a maximum of 60 on 15th August. Autumn counts from Spurn regularly involved up to 12 birds between 5th July and 14th October, and with a total of 230 'flavas' flying south, which was considered poor. Sightings reached a peak in the last week of August and first week of September, with maxima at Spurn of 30 on 25th August and 35 on 6th September. Inland there were also ten at Thorne Moors on 29th August. Whilst most birds had departed by end of September, unusual concentrations occurred in South Yorkshire in early October with 11 at Old Moor on 4th and five at Potteric Carr on a late 14th October. The last flew over Filey on 16th October.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* A

Passage migrant

Breeds in western continental Europe from Southern Scandinavia south to Northern Iberia and east to the Balkans.

The first male appeared at Low Moor NR on 7th April, followed by another at Bolton-on-Swale GP on 18th April and at Trough Lane, Bradford on 23rd April. Further reports included a male at Sammy's Point on 6th May, a female at Flamborough 14th and a male at Wombwell Ings on 21st; possibly the same bird was then at Broomhill Flash on 23rd May.

A hybrid *flava/flavissima* known as 'Channel Wagtail' was on Flamborough Golf Course on 10th May.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* A

5,2,1,3,1

Rare migrant

Breeds in central and northern Scandinavia west to northern Siberia.

The only record related to a male at Carr Naze Pond, Filey on 13th May (CCT); the first in the Filey area since 1999.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* A

Amber list: uncommon resident in north and west; scarce passage migrant. BBS 26/222

Favours fast-flowing watercourses, and appears to be increasing in the north-west, but there are also more reports from lowland areas where it increasingly breeds. Found in 11.7% of BBS squares this year, more than Yellow Wagtail. Breeding in the mountains of the Palearctic, continental birds migrate south and may account for some of our coastal records.

A scarce winter visitor in coastal areas, with four in the Filey area on 7th January and two at Flamborough on 20th February. The best totals in the first half included 12 at Dowley Gap, Bradford on 7th January and eight at Hilla Green, Scarborough on 25th March.

Small scale spring migration was evident at a few localities, with singles at Flamborough on 24th April and 26th May and two birds on 6th May. At Spurn five birds flew south and two flew north between 7th March and 16th May.

The breeding distribution appeared unchanged, with most reports typically from upland river valleys with no breeding reports from the Humberhead Levels and East Riding. However, it did breed for the first time at Fairburn Ings.

A small scale post-breeding dispersal was evident from mid-June, with a juvenile at Winterset Res on 16th

and up to two on four dates in late June at Spurn. Singles flew south over Filey Brigg and Flamborough on 23rd June and Filey Dams on 27th June, with additional sightings at Flamborough on 30th June and 4th July and two on 7th July.

Visible migration occurred at Spurn from early August, with a total of 74 south between 4th August and 19th October, with bests of five on 3rd and seven on 8th October. Elsewhere, peak counts included 12 at Worsborough Res on 18th August and 1st September, six at Filey on 25th October and five at Flamborough on 5th and 8th September and 28th October, five at Winterset Res from 2nd-15th October and the same number at Scalby Beck on 12th October. It was a poor autumn in the Bradford area, with only 31 bird/days and a maximum of five birds on one day. In the south Pennines the picture was repeated, with a best of only four south-west over Rod Moor on 22nd September and Redmires Res on 7th October.

Towards the year end sightings were mainly restricted to resident populations, with occasional reports from sewage farms and the coast.



Grey Wagtail •
Colin Wilkinson

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* A

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 109/222: +9% (+15) 1994-2007, +45% (+1) 2006-07

A large increase in BBS numbers was noted this year and the general trend has been upwards, with an increase noted in North Yorkshire in particular. The British race *M. a. yarrellii* is mostly resident, but some move south.

Numbers were generally quite low in both coastal and upland areas during January and February. In contrast, many inland, lowland and urban areas recorded their highest counts, often at communal roosts or feeding flocks typically associated with sewage treatment works. Maxima during the early months included 120 in a roost in a Tesco car park, Sheffield on 12th January, 130 in the Tesco car park at Seacroft, Leeds on 14th February, 100 at Dowley Gap SF on 19th January and 70 in a roost at Airedale Hospital, Bradford, in March.

Between 17th February and 25th April a total of 120 ‘alba’ wagtails flew south over Spurn, with a best of 14 on 13th March. Inland, northerly visible migration was much less evident. Breeding birds started returning to the uplands in March, with the first at Henside in the Yorkshire Dales on 2nd March and by the end of the month birds were widespread through the area. During this period several parties of up to 100 were present at Bellflask Quarry, Harrogate; 70 were at Norton SF, Sheffield on 4th March; 50 at Pit House West, Sheffield on 10th March; and 45 near Ho Mire, Malham on 9th April.

Breeding was widely reported with many double broods and post–breeding flocks were evident from mid–June, with 30 at Skipton SF on 15th June increasing to 40 on 29th July.

Autumn passage was typically light on the east coast, with just 163 ‘albas’ flying south over Spurn between 18th July and 31st October, with only four double–figure counts: 19 on 20th, 11 on 25th September, 15 on 12th and 14 on 16th October. Similarly, numbers inland were well down on recent years with only 316 logged on the Bradford visible migration watches, including 191 at Caldene Fields. The traditional strongholds of Thornton Moor and Denholme Clough barely featured. Peak visible migration was typically noted in late September and early October, with maxima of 200 south over Winterset Res, 45 south–west over Rod Moor and 12 south over Long Nab, Scarborough on 22nd September and 52 south–west over Strines, Sheffield on 11th October.

Elsewhere, there were maxima of 60 birds at Flamborough on 17th August, up to 100 in the Leventhorpe area and 75 at Silsden Ings on several dates in August and 155 at Cononley Ings on 18th September. A roost in willows on the islands of Farnham GP held maxima of 200 on 28th August, 300 on 11th September and 200 on 1st October. Other peak counts in October included 80 at Flamborough on 2nd and 200 roosting at Woolshops, in the centre of Halifax on 14th October.

The number of reports declined through November, with the only notable flocks towards the end of the year being associated with roosts; they included 160 at Fairburn Ings on 26th December and 63 at Tophill Low on 12th December.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* **A**

Passage migrant

Breeds in Iceland and northern Europe and winters in Africa.

The first reports came from inland locations, with a single at Crimsworth Dean, Halifax on 8th March, closely followed by one at Old Moor the next day; the earliest ever date for this locality. A further eight appeared at Old Moor in March, with two at Wombwell Ings on 19th. Nosterfield NR also recorded a single on 21st March. There were only a few reports from the east coast in March, with a best of three at Old Scarborough Tip on 15th and three singles at Spurn between 22nd and 31st March.

Singles were widely reported during April and May, with 17 bird/days at Flamborough, 13 bird/days in the Harrogate area and 10 bird/days at Spurn. However, flocks were non–existent, with three at Gouthwaite Res on 22nd April and four at Swinemoor on 4th May. The last of spring were singles at Flamborough on 1st and 3rd June.

Autumn passage was evident from 1st September onwards, with one at Gouthwaite Res and an exceptional flock of nine at Flamborough. The only other report was a lone individual at Soil Hill on 17th September and singles at Flamborough on 2nd, 5th and 19th October.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* **A**

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, usually uncommon

Breeds from northern Scandinavia eastwards through the coniferous zone, including North America.

It was a relatively poor year, with low numbers in both winter periods, especially in the second. Five at High Bentham on 1st were much further inland than the other January records. Two at Easington on 6th, one at Reasty Bank, over Broxa Forest and two at Cayton Bay all 14th. Perhaps the same two were at Osgodby on 21st, with singles at Flamborough and Spurn on 22nd, when four were at Sammy’s Point. Two were at Knaresborough on 26th, followed by a single at Aldbrough from 27th–31st and four at Ruston Parva and three at Carnaby on 28th.

One at Spurn on 3rd February, three at Boltby on 4th and up to ten present in the Wortley Recreation Ground area of Leeds from 6th–18th. Skelton hosted two on 19th and a single at Skirlaugh on 24th. Up to ten were at Pickering from 25th February through to 4th March and three at Sheffield on 26th–27th. Three present at Knaresborough from 12th –14th, ten at Armley on 13th–14th, one at Acomb on 13th and 16 at Marton on 30th. Singles were recorded at Walton Hall on 10th April and Guisborough on 20th with five at Cononley on 24th. Spurn provided the last of the first period on 13th May.

The first returning birds were at Flamborough on 27th–28th October, Spurn from 29th October–3rd November. There were a series of records in November following two at Flamborough on 4th; at Skelton on 8th, four at Scarborough on 16th, six at Marske on 17th, at Flamborough Head on 20th, eight at Pickering on 15th and finally, two at Whitby on 31st.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* **A**

Uncommon resident on higher ground in north and west. BBS 7/222

Nationally stable population of the race *gularis*.

In the west birds can be seen on many river systems with birds reported in the higher dales from the R Swale at Muker, R Ure at Hawes, R Arkle at Langthwaite, Clapham Beck, Cotterdale Beck, Flasby Beck, Hawkswick, Gunnerside, Malham Cove and Hanlith.

Along the R Calder and tributaries there was a presence at 28 sites; however, 13 of these were only of lone individuals on single dates. On the R Wharfe there were at least 22 birds between Howgill and Bolton Bridge and 13 between Bolton Bridge and Pool Paper Mills, where one pair bred. Maximum counts were in the Strid Wood area, with eight in March. Twelve were in the Airedale/Worth Valley, which was down on last year’s total. Only two were present in the Washburn Valley, which was a similar figure to 2006. Other breeding records came from Bullhouse Mill, Cowling and Carlton, Little Don and Thurgoland/More Hall.

Birds were occasionally seen moving between river systems, but highly unusual were two ‘vis mig’ records of singles high over Denholme Clough on 29th September and 6th October. One at Blackmoorfoot Res on 11th November was also indicative of local movement.

Black–bellied Dipper *Cinclus c. cinclus/aquaticus* **A**

0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 13 previous records

A Black–bellied Dipper took up winter residence at Watton from 24th November, although its sub–specific identity wasn’t clarified until well into 2008 (MCo *et al.*). This was the first confirmed record since one at Spurn in November 1999, although a Dipper at Easington in October 2002 was almost certainly of continental origin.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* **A**

Abundant resident; passage migrant in small numbers

BBS 199/222: +91% (25) increase 1994–2007, +20% (+13) 2006–07

As mild winters continue to be the norm, a further increase in numbers was noted in the county this year. It is now the most widespread BBS species, found in 89% of the squares, and overtaking Chaffinch and Carrion Crow.

Breeding surveys took place at several sites, including: 42 singing males at Garbutt Wood, 38 at Gledhow Valley Wood, 23 at North Cliffe Wood, Beverley, 46 at Potteric Carr, 35 at Thornhill Moor and 23 at Ulley CP, 50 breeding pairs at Fairburn. However there were only 16 singing males at Spurn.

Spring passage was negligible, with the only autumn coastal counts of 37 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 2nd October, with 20 there on 5th on which date there were 42 at Spurn.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: abundant resident; passage migrant

BBS 152/222: +17% (+25) 1994–2007, +9% (0) 2006–07

The very sedentary British race *occidentalis* appeared to show some recovery this year, after a period of slight decline in the county since 2000. Nominate *modularis* from Fennoscandia and northeast Europe occur on migration on the coast. Probably under–recorded in BBS surveys.

Some spring movement was evident on the coast, with 34 at Flamborough on 27th March, 27 on 14th April, followed by a late movement of 47 at Spurn on 9th May. Only 21 held territories at Spurn and most of the first broods failed due to bad weather; however, second broods were more successful. There were 17 breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings.

Autumn numbers were fairly low, with 26 at Flamborough on 22nd, 16 at Castle Hill on 5th October and ten at Kettleness on 14th and 23rd October. Some southerly passage occurred through Spurn, with 20 south on four dates between 15th and 22nd September.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* **A**

Common to abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 170/222: +90% (+21) 1994–2007, +7% (+3) 2006–07

The resident and largely sedentary British race *melophilus* has been increasing in the county since 2002. Falls of the nominate race *rubecula* occur on the east coast, particularly on October, and these are probably of Fennoscandian origin and south Baltic origin. They pass through to wintering grounds further south.

No spring passage along the coast this year, with the only appreciable autumn counts: 49 at Spurn on 30th September, 25 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 2nd October, 20 at Whitby Golf Club and 45 at Ravenscar on 6th and 30 at Kettleness on 7th.

Inland counts included 30 at Thorne Moors on 5th March and 33 at Damask Res, Sheffield on 30th. Additional breeding season records included 55 singing males at Potteric Carr on 14th April and 27 breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings. On 7th October there was an interesting count of 65 on Danby High Moor, which reflected the higher than usual numbers along the adjacent coast.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* **A** 0,1,1,1,2 *
Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant
*** Running totals refer only to migrants**

It was a disappointing year, with only five records. Singing males were recorded on three dates on Thorne Moors: at Will Pits on 28th April; Cassons on 1st May and Goole Moor on 5th June.

There were two migrants; one at Stone Creek on 4th May and one singing in the Crown and Anchor car park, Kilnsea on 14th (PCo).

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* **A** 1,7,1,2,6
Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeding species

The species breeds across the Palaearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red-spotted race *svecica* breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white-spotted forms *cyanecula* and *namnetum* breed from Spain to the Baltic States and this form has bred in the county, most recently at Thorne Moors.

The first was photographed at the Point, Spurn on 16th May (NPa); a female was trapped in the same area on 28th (PCo *et al.*) and the final spring record related to a male at South Gare on 6th June (NAP *et al.*).

In the autumn a first-year male remained in The Bluebell area, Spurn from 20th–25th September and gave stunning views to a precession of admirers (NP *et al.*). An elusive single showed well, but briefly, at Filey CP on 6th October (HJW) and the last consisted of a female/first year at the Wire Dump, Spurn on 4th November.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* **A** 0,0,0,0,2
Vagrant; one previous record

Yorkshire's second-ever was discovered at 1610hrs in the garden of Willow Cottage, Easington on 31st March. It proved to be the county's first mass-twitched individual and 100 birders managed good views over 2.5 hours before it disappeared and incredibly shortly afterwards was picked up dead (MGS *et al.*). A cold north-easterly wind was presumably the prompt for its arrival, although the date was unexpected; however, another first-winter appeared on Shetland two days later.

For those that missed out, the wait was a short one with a first-winter discovered in the net during a ringing session on the Outer Head, Flamborough on 20th October; later released in Old Fall Plantation, it gave superb views to many visitors until late afternoon on 23rd (IM *et al.*).

The only previous county record related to a first-winter/female at Skinningrove on 25th September 2001.



Red-flanked Bluetail •
John Grist

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant; rare winter visitor
Breeds from North Africa to southern Scandinavia, locally in SE England, typically on derelict sites or in town centres, wintering in the south of its range.

There was a single mid-winter record, with a male at Flamborough on 11th February. More typical, was a series of lone individuals at Flamborough from 20th–27th March, 4th–5th April, 12th, 15th and 21st April. Other coastal records came from: South Gare on 25th–26th and 31st March; Spurn on 27th March, with two on 1st April and a single on 11th April. Singles also noted at Filey on 5th April, Whitby on 7th April, Meltham on 12th, Grange Farm on 14th, Sheffield on 20th and Scarborough on 22nd and 1st–3rd May. Sightings were daily in the Spurn area from 28th April to 5th May, with four present north to Sammy's Point on 3rd and 5th May. Subsequently, singles arrived at Spurn on 14th and 29th May and 4th and 11th June, whilst arrivals at Flamborough on 18th and 21st June coincided with the appearance of other late spring migrants.

A male sang in Sheffield from 1st–31st May; a juvenile that appeared at the Point, Spurn on 26th July preceded a female at Spout House, Bilsdale on 12th August. Further inland records included singles at Soil Hill from 28th August to 3rd September and a male at Cold Edge Dams on the latter date. Singles followed at Flamborough on 18th, 20th and 23rd September, although the latter half of autumn continued to disappoint. In October: one at Filey Brigg on 1st, Skinningrove on 3rd, Filey on 14th, Ravenscar on 18th, Green Withens Res on 19th, Filey on 23rd, two at Heather's Haven on 24th, one at Flamborough on 26th, Barmston and Sammy's Point on 27th, two at Filey and Flamborough on 28th–29th, one at Bempton on 30th and Spurn on 31st October and 1st November. A single made landfall at Filey on 9th November, while there was a late bird at Skinningrove on 29th December.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 13/222
A locally declining trans-Saharan migrant, only detected in 5.8% of BBS squares this year compared to 8.9% in 2006.

A single in Arkengarth Dale on 10th April constituted the first, after which there were two at Spurn on 13th April, followed by singles at Kilnsea and Langcliffe Brow on 14th and Grass Wood and Rathmell the following day. After singles at Filey and Lindley Wood Res on 18th, there were five at Soil Hill on 20th, singles at Broomhead Woods and Gunnerside Gill on 22nd, Strid Wood on 23rd, Wharnccliffe Woods on 24th and two at Bastow Wood on 25th April.

Spring passage at Spurn was an improvement on recent years with 39 bird/days and a maximum of eight on 14th May; a single there on 24th June was on an unusual date. In contrast records from Flamborough were described as typically scarce, as befitting recent spring trends and there were records on only four dates, with a maximum of three on 20th May.

Single singing males were in Farndale on 27th and at Sykes House on 29th April, when five were singing at Bolton Abbey. Seven at Istang Road Bridge to Scar House on 5th May, when six more were present at Grass Wood, six in the Jervaulx Abbey area on 26th and six at Rocher Wood on 10th June. There were records from 16 sites in the Bradford area, with breeding proved at Bolton Abbey. There were no territorial birds in Cleveland, although further south the woodlands inland of Scarborough continue to be productive; there were five singing males in the Mowthorpe–Forge Valley area on 22nd April and four at Low Camp North on 25th April. Further west breeding proved at Conistone, Hole Bottom, Grassington and Whitewell Moor. However, the frequency of singing males in the Dales area suggested that there was much wider breeding success. Only three singing males were present in the Halifax woodlands and the species is declining rapidly in this section of the Pennines. In the south of the county, there was a summer presence in at least nine locations around Sheffield; this included six singing at Wharnccliffe Chase on 13th May and ten trapped at Barbrook Plantation, two of which were re-traps.

A single at Old Moor on 12th July was the first there since 2002. Three present at Hawes from 24th July to 5th August, four in Swaledale on 12th August with five at Roils Head on 29th. Inland, September records were scarce, with singles at Levisham on 1st and West Park on 11th, although the last was recorded at Potteric on 7th October.

Autumn lacked weather conducive to drift migrants and as a consequence autumn passage along the coast was very poor. Only 44 bird/days recorded at Spurn, after the first migrant on 12th August. The last was present on 6th October, with a meagre high of seven on 28th September. Flamborough's best was four on 29th September, while two at Filey on 4th October constituted their best. Easington hosted two late birds on 24th October.

WHINCHAT <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> A Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 4/222 A nationally declining migrant that winters in Africa. Recent evidence suggests a decrease in its breeding range in the Pennines, but twice as many were found on BBS surveys this year compared to 2006, (eight birds), in double the number of sample squares. Two were early at Rocher Wood on 8th April, followed by a more general arrival on 23rd when singles were present at Blackton Res, Flamborough, Hummersea and Dewsbury SW. Subsequently new arrival appeared at Wholestone Hill, Flamborough and Blackmoorfoot on 24th, Wombwell Ings and Pugney’s CP on 25th and Ringstone Edge Res, Winskill Stones and Swillington Ings on 26th. Spring passage through Spurn was considered very disappointing with 76 bird/days; the best count came on 14th May when 26 were present, with five more at nearby Sammy’s Point. Inland, numbers increased at several sites during the second week of May with four at Glaisedale Caper Hill on 13th; at the month end there were ten at Glaisedale Caper Hill on 31st. Reports from several societies covering the Pennines indicate a species that is fast disappearing from many former breeding localities. In Sheffield two pairs bred at Blacka Moor, with probable breeding at Agden Side, Ewden Beck and Broomhead. Further north, breeding wasn’t confirmed in Calderdale, while two pairs bred at Barden Moor, Bradford and a juvenile at Glovershaw indicated local breeding success. In late summer up to six adults and young frequented Bradup in August, at least five at Glovershaw and a family party were present in Oxenhope. Two pairs were discovered in Colsterdale in spring with nine birds observed on 9th July and a pair was at Agill on 12th May. June records from the North Yorkshire Moors included singles at Bransdale and Glaisdale on 9th and 10th, three at Biller Howe, Fylingdales on 11th, two at Scaling Dam on 16th, three at Rosedale on 17th and two at West Ousegill on 20th. A juvenile at Kettleness on 6th August was indicated the start of migration, but it was 22nd before numbers built at coastal locations; with five at Flamborough on 22nd, followed next day with two at Hummersea and six at Filey, seven at Flamborough and 11 at Spurn on 24th. Inland movement was noted at Draughton Heights with 16 present on 25th when there were also eight at Flamborough and thirteen at Spurn. September lacked conducive drift conditions and numbers were very low throughout the month. October’s sole records were singles at Flamborough on 5th, Spurn on 6th, a late juvenile at Whitwell Grange, Malton on 12th, one at Cononley on 26th and two at Coney Warren on 28th October.	Siberian Stonechat <i>Saxicola t. maura/stejnegeri</i> A Rare coastal migrant; 45 previous records In the north of the county, Hummersea hosted a female/first-winter on 29th September (IK). A first-winter was discovered in the reed bed at Barmston on 30th September and remained the next day (DW <i>et al.</i>). Another appeared at Spurn Point from mid-morning on 2nd October and lingered until the evening of 6th (AMH <i>et al.</i>). These were the first records since singles at Kilnsea and South Gare in late October 2004.
STONECHAT <i>Saxicola torquatus</i> A Scarce breeding resident and uncommon autumn/winter visitor. BBS 11/222 The race found in Britain, <i>hibernans</i>, is increasing nationally at a rapid rate (+278% 1994–2007) and this is reflected locally. Small numbers wintered across the county in the first period, with maxima of four at Cudworth Common on 10th January and seven at Thorne Moors on 14th. Three were at Silverwood Colliery tip from 26th January to 2nd February, with four at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 7th, eight at Blacktoft on 12th, three at Silverwood Tip Top on 17th February and three at Yeadon Tarn on 7th March. The increase in breeding reports continues from both coastal areas to the higher dales. In the east, there were seven pairs around Boulby, five pairs bred in the Starr Carr/Seamer Carr area and a pair at Flamborough raised eight young from two broods. In addition, juveniles were observed at many coastal sites north of Flamborough, with four broods present mid-summer on moorland inland of Smuggler’s Cove, north of Scarborough. Breeding is also well established along the Pennines; examples include two pairs that raised three young in the Little Don Valley and two broods of four and six at Meltham CP. Further north, there were three pairs in Colsterdale, and juveniles present post-breeding season at Scar House and at Angram Res; furthermore, pairs possibly bred at Dallowgill Moor, Bramham Rocks, Masham Moor and Bishop’s Moor. Away from the uplands, two and possibly three pairs bred on Thorne Moors. Post-breeding parties included eight at Smuggler’s Rock on 7th August, 12 at Widdup on 11th and 12 at Smuggler’s Rock on 5th September, when eight more were on Stoney Marl Moor. Fifteen congregated at Cross of Greet Bridge on 6th September, seven were in Little Don Valley on 13th and 14 at Thorne Moors on 26th September. Autumn passage at Spurn started on 4th September with an almost daily presence until the end of November. A peak occurred in late September when record numbers were present, with a best of 34 on 30th. On the same date there were another 20 north to Easington, outside of the Observatory recording area. Further north 15 constituted a very good local count at Buckton. Several groups remained inland over the final three months, although parties of eight at Swillington on 1st October, five at Beal Carrs and seven at Fairburn on 3rd October reflected the higher numbers passing along the coast.	WHEATEAR <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> A Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant. BBS 48/222 Widespread in Europe and as far north as Greenland, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara. Has previously declined markedly in its breeding range on the Pennines, but found in considerably more squares this year and overall the population appears to be stable. First back were singles at Beaver Dyke on 10th March, Filey and Withens Clough on 12th and South Gare on 13th. Then a small gap until five at Grassington Moor on 24th followed by singles at Deepdale, Burbage, Hebden and three at Soil Hill on 28th. Immigration picked up in the second week of April, when inland there were 13 at Yarnbury and 27 at Spurn on 11th. Eleven made landfall at Flamborough on 19th with 28 at South Gare on 21st, which included the first of several Greenland Wheatears to be ringing there. Numbers continued to increase, with 21 at Filey, 20 at Flamborough and 24 at Ravenscar on 22nd and 22 at Flamborough and 37 at Spurn the following day. However, the week’s highest count was an impressive 100 at Redcar GC on 25th April; the influx on the coast was mirrored further west, with 12 at Blackmoorfoot Res and, for an inland site, an amazing 90 at Soil Hill also on 25th, with 54 still present at the latter location the next day when there were also 11 at Winskill Stones and 17 at Swillington Ings. In May most large numbers were confined to the coast, although 20 were in the Scalaber Bridge area on 2nd. Spurn logged 32 on 5th May, but bigger numbers appeared towards the end of the second week, with 31 at Spurn on 12th and 38 at Flamborough on 13th. However, an eye-catching fall took place around Spurn on 14th, when there were 141 at Spurn and a further 150 north of the Obs recording area to Easington. Only 34 remained the next day, when Flamborough hosted 42. The final notable count referred to 37 at Spurn on 22nd May; in total 730 bird/days were logged at Spurn, which was above average. There were very few substantiated reports on breeding trends, although it was considered a poor summer around Halifax, with proof of breeding confined to Midgeley and Withens Clough. Four pairs were feeding juveniles at Hebden Gill on 5th June. Inland, a creditable 31 were present around Warley Moor Res, Bradford on 12th August. However, autumn passage along the coast was dismal and began quietly with four at Kettleness on 23rd August, then 23 at Flamborough on 28th. Without drift conditions, September was very quiet, with bests of 13 at Spurn on 20th, six at Filey on 21st, then 13 again at Spurn on 29th. Late records included singles at Rigg Road, Bransdale on 29th October, Syckersons, Bransdale on 6th November, Ingbirchworth Res on 15th–17th and Jugger Howe Moor on 22nd November. However, the latest appeared at Cromer Point on 9th December and remained in the vicinity of the Desert Wheatear until the year end.
WHITE’S THRUSH <i>Zoothera dauma</i> A Vagrant; six previous records One was found dead in a garden at Thorngumbald at noon on 21st October, after having unfortunately flown into a window (PR <i>et al.</i>). The householder realised it was unusual and managed to identify it correctly after reference to literature. The last county record was the mass-twitched individual that performed for large numbers of birders at Easington on 10th October 2004.	DESERT WHEATEAR <i>Oenanthe deserti</i> A Vagrant; eight previous records This species breeds from Morocco east to Central Asia, with autumn records most likely to be accounted for by reverse migration of eastern birds. A male at Cromer Point, near Burniston entertained large numbers of birders during its protracted stay from 26th November into the New Year (MCh <i>et al.</i>). Amazingly, it appeared 18 years to the day since the only previous Scarborough record, two fields to the north of this individual. The last county record referred to a male at South Gare on 29th November 2005 and five of the nine Yorkshire records arrived in November.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 11/222
Breeds in upland Britain, but principally a passage migrant from northern Africa/southern Europe.

A rather late spring arrival; individuals at Stanley Clough, Sheffield and Scar Valley, Harrogate on 31st March, preceded a reasonable spring. After others at Dalehead, Malham and Blakey, Rosedale on 2nd April the first main wave came inland on 6th April with birds at Redmires Res, Burbage Valley, Oaken Bank, Thornton Moor Res, Rosedale and Shaw Rigg. Six days later the first coastal influx occurred and seven were at Spurn, nine at Filey and eight at Hummersea. Migrants also moved through inland on this date (12th April) and the movement continued through to 15th April. Ahead of the next coastal passage, seven were at Fylingdales/Lockton High Moor on 20th, whilst the coastal movement itself was evident from 21st April for three days when 11 were in the Boulby area and then 11 at Ravenscar on 22nd, with widespread records of one to three birds on 23rd. Over these few days eight were also seen at Scaling Dam on 21st. The penultimate significant spring movement occurred from 3rd to 5th May. Peak counts were nine at Spurn and six at Hummersea both on the 5th and finally, Spurn received another nine birds on 14th May.

Further evidence of a decline as a breeding species was evident, although breeding was proved at Mickleden Beck at Midhope, Upper Little Don Valley, Sugden Clough and at Dalehead, Malham. Otherwise breeding season or territorial birds were noted at Fylingdales Moor, Burbage Valley, Oaken Bank, Bogging Moss, Moscar/Strines area, Howden Res, Steel House Gill, Masham Moor, Snilesworth Moor, Summer Lodge Tarn and Whitaside Tarn.

Autumn passage was typically thin and protracted and only two sites recorded more than three birds on any one date. A few birds began to move off the higher ground during August and through to mid-September; on 27th September singles were at Skipwith Common and Spurn. At the latter site 44 bird/days were logged through to 14th October, with up to six logged on a few days. Only Flamborough fared as well, with a maximum count of five on 9th October. Inland, visible migration was recorded from Strines on 12th October with one west. The last coastal migrants moved through on 27th October and inland birds lingered until the last at Tarn House, Malham on 18th/19th November.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* **A**
Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 186/222: +69% (+24) 1994–2007, +10% (+4) 2006–07

During the first half a high count of 64 was logged at Spurn on 16th January, ten days later though a singing male was at Dowley Gap in Bradford, the earliest reported territorial bird. Wintering birds began to clear out in the latter half of March, although counts were far lower than 2006. At Filey ten were counted on 23rd March and 12 on 26th. Thirty-one were at Flamborough on 27th and another 15 at Filey on 31st. Through into April ten were at Filey on 2nd, movement continued to be detected at Flamborough, with a total of 45 migrants during the month and migrants noted at Scarborough on 13th April.

A count of 43 singing males in the Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds on 10th May suggested just how common this species remains.

The first detectable autumn migrants were 15 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 21st September, although the second week of October produced the first major influx. Autumn then followed a pattern remarkably similar to that of 2006; treble-figure counts began on 6th October with 140 at Spurn and 172 logged at Flamborough the following day. Filey recorded 300 on 9th and a widespread large-scale arrival occurred on 13th with 500 through Hummersea, 500 at Filey, 780 at Flamborough and 448 at Spurn. Birds clearly pushed on inland on 14th October, as at least three sites recorded visible migration: Redmires recording 22 west, Strines nine and Ecclesall three north-west. At the end of October another influx occurred on 25th, when Filey had 200, Flamborough 470 and Spurn 450. A count of 1550 at Spurn on 2nd November was by far the highest of the year and reflected at other coastal sites in reduced numbers; after this date many sites inland recorded maxima, including 62 at Burton Leonard, Harrogate on 10th. To round off the autumn, 72 were counted in off at Filey on 13th November and 345 at Spurn, which included 205 in off.

BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus ruficollis* **A** **0,0,0,0,1**
Vagrant; four previous records
A first-winter female was an excellent find at Buckton on 25th March remaining through to 27th. It proved very photogenic during its three day stay and was suitable reward for its finders, who had just completed a day of tree planting (MT: DW *et al.*). This individual was the first to be twitchable, with the last county record a first-winter at Redmires Res on 13th November 1995.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* **A**
Red list: common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. BBS 2/222
An entirely migratory species that breeds in Scandinavia and northern Europe east to Siberia, often passing through the county to winter further south and west.

Well reported during the first few months, with some good sized flocks including 400 at Beal on 5th January, 400 at Leighton Res, Harrogate on 26th February, 450 at Dairy Ridge on 15th February and 10th March, 500 at each of at Kirby Hill, Harrogate on 21st March, Southfield Res on 12th January and at Preston, Hull on 5th January, 750 at Old Moor on 14th January, 800 at Close House on 5th January, 1000 at Cononley Ings on 21st February and 1000 at Skipton Sewage Works on 17th February. Small numbers of passage birds were noted on the coast in early April, although typically flocks were still present on the higher ground in the first three weeks of the month including 350 at Kirk Edge, Sheffield on 21st April. Spring's last was at Flamborough on 3rd June, following a late bird inland at Wharncliffe Chase on 28th May.

In autumn, one was reported in Idle on 8th –11th August and the next at Colsterdale on 14th September, before birds noted at a few sites on 22nd September and a wider influx on 29th September. Thereafter, passage picked up significantly through October, with notable peaks on the coast on 9th, with 500 at Flamborough, 13th with 500 at Filey and 557 at Spurn and on 31st when 245 were at Spurn. Inland movements were more impressive over the visible migration hot spots, beginning on 11th October at Strines, when 134 flew west. A larger westerly movement took place over Strines on 14th October when 719 passed through in 3.5 hours and then 520 flew west over Redmires, 1122 over Thornton Moor Res and 1430 west over Upper Midhope on 18th October. Next day an impressive 4925 flew over Rod Moor in 2.5 hours, 3007 over Thornton Moor Res, 296 over Redmires Res and 338 through Thrybergh CP. Large numbers continued on 20th: 2034 west over Rod Moor; 400 west over Redmires; 1775 west over Thornton Moor Res and 1107 west at Caldene Fields. Other sites recorded large influxes during this period, the largest of which were 700 at Southfield Res on 18th October, 750 at Beal on 26th October and 1000 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd October.

In early November small westerly movements were noted over Redmires on 1st and 2nd and 1000 were at Spurn on 2nd. Larger flocks later in the year were few and far between, but did include 1000 at Fairburn Ings on 19th November, 1000 in the Wharfe Valley on 21st November, 500 at Beal on the same date, 500 at Scaling Dam on 20th November and 500 at Bellflask Quarry on 30th November. The only significant flock in December was 300 at Beal on 4th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 129/222: +23% (+18) 1994–2007, –13% (+1) 2006–07

A slow but steady recovery both locally and nationally, although there was drop in records in BBS this year. Evidence from a few sites suggested increasing numbers during the breeding season, including Worsbrough where there were 45 pairs.

In spring a small but detectable movement was noted on 11th April at both Filey and Spurn. The first autumn immigrants were noted on 22nd September and by 29th September 114 were at Spurn, the highest count of the autumn from this site. Thereafter relatively low numbers recorded through to 2nd November, mostly at the key headlands. Visible migration peaked at 15 west over Strines on 14th October and the maximum counts of the autumn were from Filey, where 200 were present on 9th October and 150 on 13th. This latter site also recorded the most bizarre record of the year, when a bird coming in off the sea on 5th October landed some 50 metres offshore on thankfully very calm water on the south side of the Brigg. It remained there for three minutes with tail cocked, before successfully taking off and flying onto Carr Naze.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* **A**
Red list: common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/222
Breeds from Iceland to eastern Siberia, but birds wintering in the county are mostly of Fennoscandian origin. Possibly bred at Flamborough Head in 2003.

Of the flocks recorded in the first few months 400 at Gallows Hill, Harrogate on 5th January, 400 at Drewton, Hull on 13th January, 450 at High Butts NR on 3rd March and 550 in the Old Moor area on 12th January were the largest. Outbound migrants on the coast included 200 at Spurn on 30th March, 150 at Buckton on 7th April with 44 bird days logged at Flamborough during the month. May records were confined to Spurn, Filey and Flamborough. At Filey singles were recorded on 5th and 24th, at Flamborough on 13th and 26th, with two on 20th and one or two were at Spurn throughout and remained to late June. It is likely one of the same birds moulted in the area and reappeared in August.

Elsewhere the first of the autumn was at Yeadon Tarn on 17th September, with two at Fairburn Ings next day and then on the 27th a widespread and significant influx occurred, both on the coast and particularly inland. Forty-five were at Spurn and inland the largest counts were of 3825 over Oxenhope and 4485 over Thornton Moor Res. Next day 740 flew north-west over Rod Moor in 1.5 hours and on 29th 480 arrived at Spurn and 179 at Flamborough. Other Flamborough totals included: 306 on 30th September, 320 on 3rd October, 220 on 4th and 525 on 6th, although elsewhere the pace slowed a little in early October until 7th, when 241 flew west over Redmires and 205 at Damflask. High counts then came on 9th as 1720 arrived at Spurn and 600 at Filey and 500 at Flamborough and then on 13th 3031 at Spurn, 1000 at Hummersea, 800 at Filey and 650 at Flamborough were logged. Visible migration followed the next day at Strines and in 2.5 hours 1024 flew west; at Redmires another 282 flew south-west. Further significant visible movements occurred on 19th: over Thornton Moor Res with 659 and Rod Moor with 738 west (2.5 hours) and again on 20th at both locations with 790 and 770 respectively, the latter again in 2.5 hours. Smaller movements continued through the last ten days of October and into November; the best of these being 500 at High Batts NR on 21st October and 500 at Spurn on both 31st October and 2nd November. Very few large flocks were seen after this, so a count of 500 at Ewden on 7th December was significant.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* A

Amber list: fairly common resident and scarce passage migrant

BBS 85/222: -21% (-12) 1994-2007, +46% (+1) 2006-07

Nationally declining since 2000, a welcome recovery in fortunes was noted in BBS surveys again after the dip in 2006, with population increases again noted in North and East Yorkshire.

Ten territories at Winterset Res indicated a continued healthy status as a breeding species, although the choice of audio cassette tape as nesting material at Eastwood on 11th May was questionable.

A migrant came in-off at Filey on 12th October and 26 flew west over Redmires Res on 11th October. Post-breeding flocks of 20-30 were widespread, with the largest 55 at Stainborough Park, Worsbrough on 27th September, 60 at Wharnccliffe on 25th August, 61 at Ulley CP on 11th August and an excellent 92 at Paul Clough in September.

AMERICAN ROBIN *Turdus migratorius* A

0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; first county record

One of the most appreciated finds of the year was a first-winter present in Gilstead, Bingley from 5th January to 13th February (JCr *et al.*). Whilst the finder was unable to find the wintering Firecrest on his visit, he was amply compensated with Yorkshire's first ever American Robin. However, the initial sighting wasn't confirmed until late January, triggering one of the events of the year. For a detailed account see page 161.



American Robin
Jack Ashton-Booth

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* A

1,2,3,2,2

Rare visitor; 19 previous records

Breeds in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration is likely to occur, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.

At Blacktoft Sands one remained from 2006 until at least 13th February. After an absence over the breeding season, presumably the same reappeared on 13th October and was then joined by a second individual on 15th November; both then remained into the New Year.

Further north at Tophill Low, what was presumed to be the same elusive male was present from 18th February to the end of the year. Although there were no sign of a repeat of last year's breeding success, two were present on 10th March.

An adult female trapped and ringed at Winterset Res on 22nd September was still present the next day (PS *et al.*).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* A

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 2/222

This secretive West Palearctic species winters in West Africa. There has been a substantial national population decline since the 1970s, but some recovery in recent years, but local populations fluctuate annually.

The first appeared at Winterset Res on 12th April, followed by one Margrove Ponds the next day, at Thorne Moors and Redmires Res on 15th and Old Moor on 16th. Coastal migrants arrived at Flamborough and Filey (two) on 21st and a day later at Spurn and Hornsea Mere. Others were noted at Spurn on 23rd, Filey on 26th, Ravenscar on 27th, Burniston on 29th and Flamborough on 30th. In May there were further singles at Filey on 3rd, Flamborough on 4th and both Spurn and Flamborough on 5th.

Breeding is always difficult to prove, but 'reeling' was generally widespread. The highest numbers were 11 in the Old Moor area, nine at both Winterset and Blacktoft Sands and six at both Fairburn and Thorne Moors.

Birds typically slipped away largely undetected, with migrants at Spurn on 20th, three on 21st and a single on 22nd August. Flamborough recorded singles on 5th and 30th September and 5th October and the last coastal migrant made landfall at Spurn on 6th October. The latest inland were at Scaling Dam on 25th September and Winterset Res on 2nd October.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* A

Fairly common breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. BBS 17/222

Breeding from Ireland to central Siberia, this trans-Saharan migrant breeds in the county on low ground around lakes, along waterways and also in oilseed rape fields. Nationally it is slightly decreasing.

Arrivals at Fairburn Ings and Pugneys on 12th April were the first, two days ahead of last year's earliest. On 14th April an early bird was on the coast at Long Bank, Spurn, while inland there were arrivals at Worsbrough and Wheldrake Ings. The next followed at Potteric Carr on 15th after which a more general arrival occurred. The only significant fall in spring comprised 23 at Spurn on 14th May, although eight were present at Flamborough on 22nd May.

Counts of territory holding males at several of the main sites hinted at a general decline and together with reports of a poor breeding season resulting from cold and wet summer weather, the fortunes of this species have taken a bit of a knock. At Fairburn Ings there were 41 territories (53 in 2006) and 16 at Winterset Res (25 in 2006, 38 in 2005). At Old Moor a maximum of 21 were counted on 5th June, again a decrease over previous years. Other counts were of 26 territories at Cononley Ings, 15 at Staveley NR, 15 at Rodley NR and 20 at Thorne Moors. However, Blacktoft remains the county stronghold with 250 territorial males.

Like the aforementioned species birds are seldom seen in any number on autumn migration; the last inland were at Winterset Res and Staveley NR on 15th September. On the coast Spurn recorded a few migrants from mid-August to the last on 22nd September; Flamborough hosted a migrant on 28th August.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum* A

1,0,0,0,2

Vagrant; seven previous records

Yorkshire was lucky enough to benefit from a record autumn, with ten accepted nationally, of which two were in Yorkshire. Both were discovered on 6th October; a first-winter was trapped at Southfield Farm, Spurn and remained until 10th (PRF: GCT *et al.*). The second was discovered in the back garden of one of the Coastguard Cottages at Flamborough and then relocated to the Bay Brambles, where it remained until 10th. It showed well at times, allowing observers to get to grips with some of the features that help clinch the identity of this sometimes difficult *acro* (RBa *et al.*). The last county record was a singing male at Spurn on 8th/9th June 2003.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **A**
Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 5/222
The nominate subspecies breeds in the western Palearctic and winters south of the Sahara. Although restricted by habitat requirements, nationally the population has been spreading northwards and westwards, and this pattern is reflected in the county.

The first arrived at both Fairburn Ings and Staveley NR on 21st April and next day at Pugneys, Winterset Res and Lowther Lake, Leeds. Expanding reedbeds at some sites are leading to growing populations and there were 106 territories at Fairburn Ings this year (88 in 2006). By far the largest population was present at Blacktoft, where there were 400 territorial males. Other key sites included Winterset Res with 55 territories (68 in 2006), Pugneys with 40, Old Moor 40, Wykeham Lakes 39 (a significant increase, with 21 in 2006), Staveley NR with 20 and Thorne Moors with 16.

A mere handful of migrants were seen on the coast in late September, with the last at Spurn (two) and Flamborough on 29th. Filey only recorded three birds during the entire autumn, one of which was in Primrose Valley on 19th September and two present on 26th September. Potteric Carr held onto a single on 5th October and Winterset Res recorded different birds on 2nd, 4th and 6th October; the latter being the last in the county.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* **A** 7,10,10,4,2
Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn
This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. First-winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid-September. Nationally one in seven records is in spring.

Both records came in spring from Flamborough. The first was at Flatmere on 30th May (PAL) and the second frequented the Coastguard Cottage Gardens on 5th June (PC).

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* **A** 1,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; eight previous records
The discovery of one at Bluethroat Dyke, Flamborough on 20th August was an excellent find (RBa: EP: NEP *et al.*). Although initially elusive it eventually showed well to most patient visitors and remained until 26th August. With only eight previous county records, this proved to be one of the most popular attractions for Yorkshire listers during the year. The last in Yorkshire was a spring bird at South Gare on 31st May 2003.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor/passage migrant; scarce wintering species
BBS 85/222: +87% (+62) 1994–2007, –9% (–2) 2006–07
Breeds throughout most of Europe. The significant increase due to climate change, as recent mild winters have encouraged wintering in Britain and northern Europe and early return migration, suffered a reverse this year. Continuing mild winters are undeniably having an effect, with as many as 70 reported up to the end of March, when spring arrivals began to filter in. The Harrogate area seems to be the epicentre with up to 30 birds present and Scarborough held the highest site count, with three at Westwood on 14th January, along with Fixby where three were seen on two dates.

It is possible that mid-March saw the arrival of fresh migrants, or wintering birds relocating, although some sites held singing birds even by the first week of March. A widespread spring arrival, however, was evident on 7th April. The only double figure coastal count referred to ten at Spurn on 23rd April.

Winterset’s breeding count of 58 was down by 17 territories from the previous year and Fairburn dropped three to 26 pairs. Pugneys though held ten males, broadly comparable with previous years and an increase in breeding numbers was reported from New Earswick. Twenty-three singing males at Cononley Ings was a good count.

Autumn passage was summarised with ‘Noticeable by their absence’ in the Scarborough area and this was echoed at many locations. Spurn logged 103 bird/days, with peak counts of seven on 7th and 14th October; three was the maximum at Flamborough and a meagre two at Filey. Perhaps fewer than ten birds moved through the Scarborough area, with autumn’s last at Spurn on 5th November.

Up to 25 wintering birds were found in November and December and again the Harrogate area was favoured.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 19/222
A summer visitor from Africa which breeds throughout most of Europe in suitable habitat, it has declined nationally by 11% since 1994. It has been found in proportionately fewer BBS squares in the county each year since 2004.

A bird at Thornton-le-Dale on 8th April was by far the earliest, with the next not until 14th at Tophill Low. Another appeared at Farnham GP on 15th April and good numbers arrived back at widely scattered sites on 26th/27th April. Spurn logged 36 bird/days in spring between 25th April and early June, with good counts of six on 13th May and eight next day. Flamborough’s first was on 7th May and a high count of nine occurred on 13th May.

Thirteen singing males were counted at Winterset, five at Fairburn and ten at Wykeham Lakes, all slight decreases on previous years. However, in the Leeds area, increases were recorded at most well watched sites.

As with the previous species, autumn migrants were hard to come by. Passage at Spurn stretched from 10th August to 8th October, with a high count of 14 on 25th August and a total of 82 bird/days. At Flamborough there were three on 23rd and 24th August, two on 30th September and a single on 1st October and at Filey singles present on 18th, 20th, 24th, 25th and 29th August. Nearby one was at Buckton on 18th August. In Scarborough birds were at Castle Hill on 29th September and 7th October and at Hayburn Wyke and Stile Scrub on 30th September, while further north the only migrant was at Hummersea on 8th October. Inland a late bird was also found at Sandmoor GC, Leeds on 8th October.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* **A** 12,16,26,12,10
Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring
Breeds through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first Yorkshire autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280 occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.

First of the autumn was in the Little Hedge, Spurn on 26th August (GJS: JWo) with the next at Thornwick Bay, Flamborough on 28th/29th August (RBa: NEP *et al.*). A bird was trapped at the Warren, Spurn on 11th September (PCo) with a long gap before the next was found, at Raindale Ravine, Robin Hood’s Bay on 29th September (JABe). Six in October started off with a bird in ‘Booted Gully’, Flamborough on 5th/6th (PC *et al.*), followed quickly by a bird in the Canal Scrape Car Park, Spurn on 7th/8th. On 8th an elusive bird was found at Hummersea, then seen again on 12th (MCor: ECP: DP) and two were located on 18th, one at the Gorse Field, Flamborough (AMA) and the other at Trough Gully, Scalby Lodge (IA: RHA: SW *et al.*) which remained next day and was probably the first twitchable bird for Scarborough. The last comprised an elusive individual in Bay Brambles, Flamborough on 20th/21st October (IM *et al.*).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* **A**
Fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 18/222
The nominate form is a summer visitor to Western Europe, migrating to the south-east to its wintering grounds in northeast and central Africa. Although nationally it has declined by 12% since 1994, the number detected in BBS squares this year in the county was the highest per square since the surveys began.

Old Moor and South Gare recorded the first on 13th April, ten days earlier than the first last year and the next were at Winterset Res and Filey on 14th; the earliest ever site record for Filey. Then on 15th a widespread influx took place both on the coast and inland to Sheffield and Harrogate. Arrivals continued over the next few days, although no single site held any more than three. On 28th April a count of 12 was logged at Spurn and at Flamborough seven were present on 30th April.

Breeding successes included at Spurn where six pairs bred, many of which were double brooded, and at Winterset where there were 11 territories. Up to five singing males were reported at each of Fairburn, Thrybergh, Flamborough and Thorne Moors and eight held territory in the Old Moor area.

Five at Flamborough on 29th August indicated the start of autumn migration. On 1st September four were at Flamborough and nine at Spurn, with another ten bird/days logged at Flamborough during the month, followed by eight bird/days in October. Filey’s peak was eight on 29th September, with two present at Kettleless and singles at Castle Hill, Scarborough and Buckton the same day. Small numbers were noted on the coast in the first week of October and singles were at Flamborough on 10th and Spurn on 14th. By far the latest though, was in Arndale, Filey on 26th to 29th November.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* **A**
Amber list: fairly common to common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 91/222: –4% (+31) 1994–2007, –15% (–4) 2006–07
The western European nominate form winters in the vulnerable semi-arid northern Sahel zone. Despite an apparent drop in BBS trends, overall results show no range contraction or drop in maximum numbers recorded. A very early individual at Sea Cut, Scarborough on 26th March, preceded others at Rodley NR and Potteric Carr on a more typical date of 14th April. Pugneys recorded a bird on 16th and a more general arrival took place over

17th. Of the well watched headlands, Spurn recorded the first on 21st April and 12 were at Flamborough and nine at Filey on 28th April. In May 27 were at Flamborough on 13th and 37 were present and 55 at Spurn on 20th.

It remains a very common breeding bird, although some sites did record poor successes and a decrease in numbers. At Swillington Ings, numbers decreased from 30 to 20 pairs and at Winterset down from 56 to 39 territorial males. At Spurn breeding success was poor, largely due to the voracious appetite of Brown-tailed Moth caterpillars stripping away suitable cover; numbers dropped to 42 pairs (51 in 2006). Fairburn lost seven males, but Rodley NR recorded 20 males (17 in 2006) and there was an increase reported at Cononley Ings.

Some late birds lingered inland, the latest of which was at Rodley NR on 30th September and on the coast the last were singles at Spurn on 2nd and 6th October. Otherwise Whitethroats almost slipped out undetected, more the preserve of the Grasshopper Warbler.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* **A** 0,0,3,0,0
Amber list: vagrant; 5 previous records, in 1977, 1989 and three in 2005
Breeds in southern England in increasing numbers, and from the western Mediterranean east to Italy.
A singing male again frequented Blacka Moor from 19th June to 22nd July (RDH *et al.*).

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **A** 2,2,15,2,1
Rare migrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 65 previous records
The European and W Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to W Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent.

A single was well watched in the Kew Villa/Crown and Anchor area of Spurn on 27th September; it was trapped and ringed on 28th and remained to 30th (PCo: BRS *et al.*). This was easily the latest arrival over the last 30 years; the previous latest in recent times made landfall in Filey CP on 21st September 1996.

PALLAS’S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* **A** 75,56,12,2,8
Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 375 previous records
Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in SE Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.

First of the autumn was at South Landing, Flamborough on 20th October (C&PT), followed by a small arrival at the end of the month, beginning with an elusive bird at Point Dunes, Spurn on 25th–27th (GED *et al.*). Another was found at Southsea Road, Flamborough on 26th (C&PT), one was at South Landing again on 27th–28th (AMA: PC), with a single at Church Ravine, Filey also on 27th (JBU *et al.*). Further birds were trapped and ringed at the Warren on 14th–15th November (JAB: RJB *et al.*), present at Ringborough on 20th–21st November (AFJ *et al.*) and the last frequented Arndale, Filey on 22nd–25th November (SC *et al.*).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* **A** 117,50,245,58,148
Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland and in spring
This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to SE Asia. It mostly occurs from mid-September to early November, and since the mid-1980’s numbers have significantly increased.

A bird found at Spurn on 27th September was first of 38 through the Observatory recording area, with almost daily sightings to 26th October; peak counts included 11 on 3rd/4th October, ten on 6th, seven on 7th and a late individual on 3rd–7th November. North of the Spurn Observatory recording area, a total of 21 birds were found, starting on 29th September at Easington Cemetery and finishing with a single on 4th November at Easington; best counts were eight on 7th and 13th October and seven on 6th. Flamborough recorded its first on 28th and Filey on 29th September. At Flamborough a high turnover of birds was evident and so made it difficult to judge how many were involved, but there was a minimum of 35 birds up to the last arrival in South Landing on 30th October. The best days were 5th October when nine were located, 30th September with eight and 6th October when seven were present. After Filey’s first in the Top Scrub on 29th, which lingered to 1st October, a new arrival was in Parish Wood on 1st October, a different individual in Top Scrub on 3rd October and one in Long Hedge the same day. Arndale held a bird on 4th, which stayed through to 7th, and on 5th there were new birds, at the Dams and at Parish Wood, both of which stayed to 7th. Newly found birds on 7th were at Arndale and two in Church Ravine, one of the latter staying to 11th. A further bird frequented Long Lane on 12th, present next day and the last was in Church Ravine on 26th.

Further north two frequented Locke Park, Redcar with another at Ravenscar on 30th September, followed by one at Skelton Castle on 1st October. On 3rd a bird at Buckton stayed to 6th and on 4th new arrivals were at



Pallas's Leaf Warbler
Tony Disley

Brotton and Castle Hill, Scarborough, with another here next day, and a further bird in Scarborough at Jackson’s Bay and at Speeton. On 6th birds were discovered at South Gare and at Brotton, where there were two at Hunley Hall GC and the following day new birds at Coatham Marsh, Kettleness, Bempton Cliffs (to 8th), East Newton (to 9th) and Grimston. Hummersea hosted a bird on 8th, as did Scalby Lodge and nearby, new individuals were at Jackson’s Bay on 9th and Castle Hill on 10th. By 13th the pace had slowed a little, but still new birds were being found with records at South Gare and Holmpton, the latter staying until 16th. Next day Kettleness attracted a new bird and one was again at Sunk Island on 17th (JWa). Finally, a small arrival took place a few days later; arrivals included singles at Castle Hill on 22nd–24th, at East Newton on 23rd, another good inland find on at Tophill Low 25th (WFC) and at Out Newton on 26th.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **A** 3,1,2,1,2
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 33 previous records
This species breeds in through Siberia to north-east China wintering from Nepal to south China. It is usually a late autumn visitor.

One showed well on occasions at Vicar Lane, Easington between 8th and 12th October (MC *et al.*) and conversely, a particularly elusive bird was found in Point Dunes, Spurn on 25th October, where it remained to 28th (GED *et al.*).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
BBS 2/222

The breeding range of this trans-Saharan migrant is restricted to woodlands on the upland margins extending up to the Arctic Circle, with Britain’s rapidly declining population on the western edge of its breeding range. Declining locally, both on passage and as a breeding species.

Numbers even dropped this year, as compared to 2006, which in itself was considered disappointing. The first arrived on 22nd April at Strines, Strid Wood and at Malham Tarn, the latter site’s only record of the year. More appeared on 25th, with singing males at both Hunsley Dale and Primrose Valley, Filey. Winterset Res hosted a migrant on 28th April and the second coastal migrant of the spring occurred at Flamborough on 11th May. Another appeared at Flamborough on 14th May, the same day as two at the Point, Spurn; the only spring record from this locality. The only other passage bird was at Ogden Res, Bradford on 19th May.

Breeding records were thinly distributed, with a few sites becoming increasingly important, ever more isolated, strongholds. The Sheffield area held up to three singing males at Strines, two at Howden Res and at least eight in the Rivelin Res/Wyming Brook area. Two territories were held at Langsett Banks and at Strid Wood, Bolton Abbey there were five singing males, with three at Hebers Ghyll and one at Timble Ings. Birds were at Grass Wood, Grassington, and at Delves Wood and Moll Springs, Huddersfield. In the Harrogate area singing males were present at Strikes Wood, Guisecliffe and Felbeck. To the east, in Ryedale, there were just two records, at

Gilling on 12th and 28th May. In a poor year for the Scarborough district, the only record was of a bird at Bridestones, Dalby Forest on 28th July.

Inland, returning migrants were present at Bingley North Bog on 8th August and at Denholme Clough on 3rd September, whilst on the coast there were a mere five autumn records. The first at Kilnsea on 12th August and the next followed on the Outer Head, Flamborough on 21st August. Easington held a bird on 12th September, with the next at Flamborough two days later. The last frequented Buckton on 30th September.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor; scarce in winter

BBS 67/222: +80% (+46) increase 1994–2007, +35% (+35) 2006–07

After a hiccup in 2006, a strong showing this year in line with national figures, contributing to a longer term increase.

In January and February there were records from Fairburn Ings, Catwick, Catcliffe Flash, Parkgate, Rother Valley CP, Aldwarke SW, Walkley, Pugneys, Bretton Lakes, Old Moor, Dowley Gap, Cononley Ings, Staveley NR, Rodley NR, Yeadon, Potteric Carr, Spurn, Skipsea, Skipton SW, Armthorpe, North Ferriby, Drewton and at Lemonroyd Road, Leeds, where there were up to three. Migrants had clearly arrived back on 5th March, with a definite new arrival at Jackson’s Bay, Scarborough and the influx continued over the next seven days. Another pulse occurred in the last week of March, when 12 were at Filey on 26th. Spurn logged maximum counts of eight on both 11th and 17th April, but Flamborough recorded no more than four birds on any one day.

Breeding densities remained high at a number of well watched sites, particularly Wintersetts which held a respectable total of 53 singing males (40 in 2006). Good counts also came from Gleadless Valley NR, with 19 singing males, Old Moor where there were 20 present and Potteric Carr with 24 territorial males.

The Spurn log indicated birds began to disperse from 15th July, although significant numbers didn’t appear until the end of September. On 30th September six each were at Filey and Flamborough and 13 at Spurn. With relatively low numbers on the coast, inland counts of 20 at Denholme Clough on 28th August, seven in the Little Don Valley on 13th September and ten at Wintersetts at the end of September were significant. Five were at Wykeham Lakes on 5th October and on the coast there were peaks of eight at Flamborough on 6th October, 13 at Spurn on 8th and ten on 10th. A few migrants were still present into early November and late birds moved through Flamborough and Brotton on 25th November and Spurn on 7th December.

Inland records over the last few weeks of the year came from Ulley CP, Stockbridge, Fairburn Ings, Weedier Res, Cononley Ings, Potteric Carr, Lemonroyd Road, Leeds, Rodley NR, Pulfin Bog, Wintersetts and Skipton.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **A**
Amber list: common to abundant breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 105/222: +3% (+1) 1994–2007, +21% (+9) 2006–07

The populations of this species, the commonest trans-Saharan passerine migrant, have been declining in Europe and in southern and eastern England, but this year there was a marked increase in the county, particularly in the numbers reported in BBS squares.

Three March records this year, starting with an exceptionally early individual singing at Potteric Carr on 8th March, followed by one at Lemonroyd Road, Leeds on 25th and the next on 28th at Tophill Low. Many sites then received their first over the five day period 7th to 12th April, although coastal falls remained small, as evidenced by a count of 13 at Spurn on 11th April. Slightly larger numbers of migrants moved through on 22nd April, with 40 at Ravenscar the highest count and it wasn’t until mid May that the largest spring fall occurred. On 14th 133 were logged at Spurn and 23 at Flamborough. Passage continued through to mid June at Spurn and 487 bird/days were logged, a vast improvements on spring 2006.

Good counts of territorial males were received from a number of sites, the highest being over 100 at Wintersetts; there were also 88 at Cononley Ings, 82 at Fairburn (69 in 2006), 62 at Old Moor on 15th Apr (48 in 2005), 60 at Skelton/Lowther Lakes, Leeds, 60 at Thorne Moors on 3rd May and 45 at Wharnccliffe Wood on 4th May.

Autumn passage started at Spurn with an early single on 5th July and daily sightings were logged from 22nd, after which autumn migrants were recorded at most of the well watched sites, albeit in very low numbers. There were 425 bird/days logged at Spurn, which compared to 710 in 2006, which in itself was regarded as disappointing. Filey’s autumn maximum was eight on 21st August and both Flamborough and Spurn recorded their highest number on 24th August, with 25 and 28 respectively. Passage was inevitably lighter during September, with only ten bird/days at Flamborough. However, a number of inland sites recorded late migrants, including Fairburn on 3rd October, singles at Thorne Moors and Headingley on 5th, one at Fleet Plantation,

Leeds on 6th and the last at Thornton Moor Res, Bradford and Silverwood Pit Tip on 7th October.

Only Flamborough was brave enough to claim *acredula* Willow Warblers, with birds showing characteristics of this form on 23rd/24th April, 12th, 14th and 25th May and 30th August.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **A**
Fairly common resident and passage migrant. BBS 25/222

Breeds from Britain east to Japan: northern birds are migratory responding to cold weather and breeding success.

On spring passage the usual late March peak occurred on 27th–29th, when Filey recorded 17 on 28th and Spurn 29 on 27th. Another small peak occurred a few days later and on this occasion 19 were at Flamborough on 8th April and 19 at Spurn on 5th.

Clearly a widespread breeder, although nowhere in large numbers; the best count related to 12 singing males at Wharnccliffe Woods on 4th May.

A protracted autumn passage started at Spurn on 18th August and continued at the latter location through to 16th November. Higher counts included 40 at Buckton, 45 at Filey, 102 at Spurn on 29th September and 90 at Flamborough, ten at Castle Hill, Scarborough and another ten at Long Nab the following day. This movement was also reflected inland and 30 were at Tophill Low on 30th; although an excellent count of 50 in the Little Don Valley on 13th September and 20 at Ogden Res on 22nd Sept both preceded the main coastal influx. The end of October witnessed a smaller pulse of migrants, with Filey hosting 23 and Flamborough 59 on 25th.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995, 2001, possibly 2006

This species breeds mostly in southern England, with north European populations migrating south–westwards to winter around the Mediterranean and providing a double passage on the coast.

The popular bird from 2006 remained at Dowley Gap until 20th February. Light spring passage then occurred at Spurn between 7th March and 7th April. The first remained until 12th March, when it was joined by two others, one of which remained next day. A bird moved north through the recording area on 26th and then an influx of four took place on 27th, increasing to five on 28th and dropping back to four on 29th. North of the Observatory recording area, singles were present at Beacon Lane on 11th and 13th March, at Easington on 31st March and at Sammy’s Point on 24th April. The only spring record away from the Spurn area was of a single at South Landing, Flamborough on 13th April.

In mid summer a bird sang at Redmires Res on 17th June, but was not seen subsequently.

Autumn was as quiet as last year, following the first at Beacon Lane on 17th September and the second and third at Vicar Lane, Easington and Warsett Hill, Brotton, both on 13th October. One was discovered at Flamborough on 14th October and inland, a female began a long stay at Old Moor lingering until 23rd December. Another was at Flamborough on 24th October and, thereafter, three inland sites proved productive; a single was at Lime Plantation, Eccup Res on 3rd November and the next a male at Old Moor on 4th (joining the female and then staying until 23rd December) and finally, one was at Wintersetts Res on 15th November, which although remained until 1st December, proved extremely elusive. A small arrival took place at coastal locations in the last week of November, with two at South Landing, Flamborough on 23rd, another at Holmpton next day and then one again at Flamborough on 26th November. Last of the coastal migrants was found in Crook Ness Gully, Burniston on 27th November and was still present there next day. At the end of November two more were discovered inland; one of which stayed at Firsby, Rotherham from 25th November to 3rd December and a more elusive bird at Fir Valley, Sheffield on 30th November and was then relocated a month later on 30th December. Other December records included a single at Yearsley Moor on 9th, another spent the afternoon at Rivelin Dams, Sheffield on 22nd, one was found at Lingham Water, Nosterfield on 24th and stayed into 2008, as did a bird found at Tophill Low on 28th. Finally, one was present at Southsea Road, Flamborough on New Year’s Eve.

BROWN FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa dauurica* **A**
Vagrant; first county record

Nominate *dauurica* breeds in central Siberia and southeast Russia, northern Mongolia, northeast China, North Korea, Sakhalin and Japan and winters in southern China, southeast Asia and the Philippines.

The discovery of an adult in Old Fall at Flamborough on 3rd October provided one of the highlights of the year (RBA: PC *et al.*). Unearthed late morning, it remained until dusk the following day and was estimated to have been enjoyed by 800 birders before it departed. This constitutes only the second accepted British record, following the recent upgrading of a first–summer on Fair Isle on 1st/2nd July 1992. For a detailed account see page 163.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* A
Red list and UK BAP species: increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
BBS 9/222: Nationally declining, -59% 1994-2007
Distributed across the western and central Palearctic, this long-distance trans-Saharan migrant is usually one of the last to arrive, in mid-May, the UK population continued to fall in 2007.

The first arrived at Spurn on 2nd May in an improved spring passage; a fall of 17 on 14th May constituted Spurn's maximum and 93 bird/days logged there until the last migrant on 24th June. A total of 48 bird/days were recorded at Flamborough, after the first on 13th May, with a peak of ten on 20th May. However, there were very few coastal migrants away from these two sites, with seven bird/days at Filey and none at Scarborough.

A continued decline was noted in several areas, with no breeding records received from the Leeds recording area, with two former breeding sites checked here without success. In the north-east of the region a pair bred in Scaling village, with two pairs at nearby Lockwood Beck, while further south a pair fed young in Forge Valley on 12th June; there were no breeding records from either Filey or Flamborough. Four pairs were present at Tophill, two at Wassand and a pair bred in Atwick churchyard. There were far more breeding reports in the west of the region, although whether this represents greater observer coverage is not clear. Pairs were present at nine sites within Sheffield, with two broods raised in Hardwick Wood and Agden Bog, and bred at eight sites in Barnsley, including three pairs in the Upper Little Don Valley. Further north, breeding proved at nine sites in the Bradford recording area, with a summer presence at a further two sites.

Autumn passage disappointed, with records spanning 14th August to 8th October (at Boulby). In total, there were 41 bird/days at Spurn, with five on 22nd September the maximum, and only 17 bird/days at Flamborough, with a best of six on 25th September.



Spotted Flycatcher •
John Grist

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* A 18,26,10,3,2
Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring
Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid August to mid November.

A very quiet autumn, with the first in trees adjacent to Speeton church on 29th/30th September followed by a single in the Crown and Anchor car park at Kilnsea on 2nd October (AB).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* A
Amber list: increasingly uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/222
A summer migrant to the Western Palearctic from western Africa, the breeding range in the county is largely restricted to the west and north, usually associated with Sessile Oak, and is highly dependent on nest-boxes. A small number of pairs breed in the extreme south, probably representing an "overspill" from the Derbyshire population.

Two arrived in the Spurn area on 25th April. There were a few coastal records during May, including a best of 12 at Spurn on 14th, when three were also at Flamborough; a male on Beacon Lane on 2nd June was the last. Autumn passage was abysmal, mainly as a consequence of a lack of drift conditions throughout September. One at the Castle on 25th/26th August was Scarborough's sole record, while only ten birds were recorded at Filey in the entire autumn, with a maximum of two on 30th September. Sixteen bird/days were logged at Flamborough, with a best of three on 11th September. Spurn fared little better and recorded a mere 42 bird/days from the first on 12th August until the last on 3rd October, with eight on 19th August easily the best count.

Inland the first arrived at Warley Moor Res, Bradford on 8th April and constituted the earliest ever local record by two days. In the south of the county three broods were raised at Wyming Brook and two broods at Agden Bog, Sheffield. During the summer, a male and two females were present at Luddenden Dean, with breeding proved with at least one of the females. However, most breeding activity was focused in the north of the Bradford /Harrogate Nats recording areas. There were 11 singing males at Strid Woods, five at Folly Hall Wood, four boxes at Dob Park raised 21 young, three nests at Low Snowden produced 22 young and a pair bred for the first time at Middleton Woods. Five pairs bred at Newhouses in the Scar Valley (best ever breeding season recorded here), two boxes were probably occupied at Lofthouse and three pairs at West Tanfield fledged 13 young.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* A
Amber list: scarce and local resident breeder; occasional irruptive immigrant

The core population remains focused on Blacktoft Sands where 100 pairs fledged between 350-450 young. Very few records were received away from there, with all confined to the final quarter. Two flew south over the Warren at Spurn on 14th October and, three days later another duo appeared at Tophill Low and remained until 21st October. Three were at Hornsea Mere on 12th November and the year's final extralimital bird was at Welton on New Year's Eve.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* A
Common resident except on high ground in west
BBS 59/222: +3% (+8) 1994-2007, -60% (+7) 2006-07

Although found in proportionately more BBS squares in the county this year, the density per square based on maximum counts fell from 3 to 2.8, suggesting poor breeding success in a cold and wet spring.

Several sites continued to report an increase in numbers, although the disappointing summer was likely to have had a negative effect on productivity. A pair bred at Spurn for the first time and successfully fledged four juveniles, while there were 16 territories at Winterset. Post-breeding flocks included 40 at Worsborough in August, a similar tally in the Little Don Valley on 13th September and an impressive 105 at Bolton Ings on 30th September. A thorough search of Tophill on 9th October revealed the presence of 130, while a flock of 40 wintered at Fairburn. December produced a flock of 47 at Luddenden Dean on 16th.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* A
Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 170/222: +43% (+14) 1994-2007, -5% (-6) 2006-07

There has been a substantial population increase since 1994, but this was another species affected by the inclement weather in May and June.

Nest box projects across the county give an indication of the health of local populations, although several commented areas commented upon relatively low numbers of fledged young. At Tophill 40 pairs occupied boxes (up five from 2006), while 24 territories were mapped at Fairburn. Other sites monitored near Leeds included Gledhow Valley, where 27 boxes fledged 121 young, and 23 boxes were used at Rodley NR (up four from 2006). Further north in the Bradford recording area, nestbox studies in the Washburn Valley logged 72 young at Low Snowden and 38 fledged young at Dob Park, while in Wharfedale 82 young fledged at Nell Bank and 7 young at Middleton Woods. There were three such nestbox studies in the Harrogate area: 20 boxes produced 64 fledged young from 158 eggs in Hackfall Woods; 13 boxes produced 85 young from 97 eggs at West Tanfield and at Fountains Abbey/Studley Royal 54 young fledged from 103 eggs laid in 15 nest boxes.

At Spurn a total of 18 moved south at the Narrows between 7th March and 18th April.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant

BBS 148/222: +200% (+55) 1994-2007, +54% (6) 2006-07

There has been a rapid increase in the population of this species, and this continued in 2007. Whereas in 1994 there were 44 Great Tits per 100 Blue Tits counted in BBS squares, the figure is now 55.

The largest flock in the first period consisted of 30 feeding on beech mast at Deffer Wood on 2nd January. Thirty-three were logged south through Spurn between 18th February and 25th April, with a best of seven on 8th March. During the breeding season 20 pairs fledged young at Tophill (same as 2006), while 21 pairs were mapped at Fairburn. In the Washburn Valley, 79 young fledged at Low Snowden, with 48 at Dob Park; boxes in Wharfedale produced 43 young at Nell Bank and 24 young fledged from boxes in Middleton Woods. The three study areas in Harrogate produced the following: 60 fledged young from 20 boxes at Hackfall Woods; 68 young from 15 boxes at West Tanfield; 24 fledged young from 10 boxes at Fountains Abbey/Studley Royal.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* **A**

Common resident and passage migrant in small numbers. BBS 44/222

The nationally increasing, sedentary race *britannicus* is thinly distributed throughout.

Over recent years there appears to have been a general increase across the county, although detailed reports are scant. However, several locations commented on a poor 2007 breeding season which reflected the very disappointing summer weather. The Sorby-Breck ringing group noted a tendency for small broods and poor fledging success; nevertheless, their ringing efforts at Thrybergh CP were rewarded with 211 trapped, consisting of 53 adults and 158 juveniles. Examples of population densities were ten singing males in Haw Park (Wintersett), 12 territories in Sheephouse Wood, six singing in Beeley Wood and a similar tally in Hall Wood; the latter three locations all near Sheffield. Post-breeding aggregations included over 40 in the Little Don Valley on 13th September and 22 at Tophill on 9th October. There was little evidence of movement, although ten headed SW over Fly Flats on 16th September, while it remained scarce at Spurn: a single at the Warren on 21st March, two there on 20th September and one trapped at Kew Villa on 18th October were the sole records.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and declining resident, scarce in the east. BBS 7/222

Nationally the British sedentary race *kleinschmidtii* of this boreal Palearctic species has decreased by 77% 1994–2007. Only nine birds were recorded in seven BBS squares, compared to 13 in six in 2006.

It tends to be scarcer in the east of the county, particularly in VC61, with the core populations appearing to centre on South Yorkshire. Records came from at least 25 sites in the Sheffield area, with six at Tankersley on 9th June and five at Ulley CP on 14th July. Pairs bred at Bolton Ings and Old Moor, with a maximum of 13 on 30th September. Birds were recorded at Worsborough on 66 dates during the year, as compared to 123 in 2006. Declines were also recorded at Pugneys (maximum was only two) and at Winterset, where only five pairs were mapped, as opposed to ten pairs in 2006. Good populations were maintained at Potteric Carr, where ten pairs were thought to have bred, with six pairs also at Fairburn. Although commoner around Leeds than Marsh Tit, a decline was noted at several sites, especially south of the city centre. A pair bred at Swillington Ings, with other records from Adel Dam, Farnley Park, Knotford Nook, Rodley NR and Yeadon Tarn. In the Harrogate Nats area there were regular reports from Staveley, Farnham, Hay-a-Park GP, while in the north-east, a pair bred at Flatts Lane, Cleveland; a single at Hummersea on 13th October was unusual. It was notably scarcer than Marsh Tit in the Scarborough area, with most records concentrated on the Carrs, with a family party at Ganton Carr on 10th August. In VC 61 there were records from: Atwick on 13th March; Filey Dams from 1st August– 25th September; Stone Creek on 10th August; Tophill Low on 22nd September.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident, scarce in south-east and south-west. BBS 5/222

This Palearctic species prefers large broad-leaved woodland. Found in surprisingly few squares, there has only been a slight national decrease 1994–2007.

Records suggest it is much commoner than the aforementioned species in the east of the county, especially in the Wolds, around the Scarborough district and in Cleveland. In the latter region, breeding was proved at Flats Lane, with others present at Saltburn Gill, Skelton Castle, Urray Nook, Yarm, Saltergill and Weary Bank. Although scarce on the extreme coast of Scarborough, it is a widespread breeding species, with populations centred on the woods fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors, especially Forge Valley, Troutsdale and Dalby Forest. Other records came from Hayburn Wyke, Scalby Beck, Newby Farm and Ganton Carr. Much

commoner than Willow Tit in VC61, with four in Brantingham Dale on 11th February and 15 at Drewton; a pair bred at Welton Waters. Very scarce in VC63, with no reports from Sheffield north to the Halifax recording area. Further north ten were at High Batts on 14th January, while a pair fledged eight young from a nest box at Fountains Abbey.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common resident, scarce in south-east. BBS 21/222

A very sedentary West Palearctic species that has increased nationally. Found in 21 squares this year compared to seven in 2006, and casual observations also suggest it is beginning to expand its range in the county.

The burgeoning population was highlighted by counts of 13 in Bretton Park on 6th January and nine at Fountains Abbey on 8th January, ten in Strid Woods on several dates and nine pairs in the Winterset area. There were records from 65 sites within the Halifax recording area and records increased in the Washburn Valley, with 13 adults between Lindley Bridge and Thruscross Dam, while in the north-east of the county two pairs bred at Skelton Castle. Two pairs bred in boxes in the Harrogate Nats district, with a pair in Hackfall Woods fledging nine young from 12 eggs and at West Tanfield, where six young were unfortunately found dead in the nest. However, the most intriguing records relate to two vis mig records on 22nd September, at Denholme Clough and Rod Moor respectively; a single south-west at the latter location providing the observer with his first such record in 20 years of intensive effort.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* **A**

Fairly common resident, absent from higher ground. BBS 18/222

The sedentary British population of the race *britannica* is probably stable in the county, following national trends, with occasional migrants of the nominate form possible on the coast.

Most reports simply referred to 'still present in ones and twos, with no proof of breeding' but that presumably reflects the secretive nature of the species. Six pairs bred at Winterset, with two at Fairburn, and records were received from 39 locations within the Bradford recording area, with a best of six at Strid Woods in April. Again a pair nested in the pallet roof of the ladies toilet at Farnham GP, while pairs successfully bred in two nest boxes at Tophill Low; a similar number to 2006, but still down on years previous to then. Eight were present in Wortley Park on 9th June and related to two family parties. Unsurprisingly, records were scarce at Spurn and confined to: one at the Point on 19th April, another at Southfield Farm on 7th July and one in the Churchyard on 1st September.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **A**

2,2,8,3,2

Red list: rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but are more likely to be of continental origin.

The first record related to a 'green' individual that took up residence at the Point, Spurn from 9th–11th June (JHe *et al.*), while the second was at Rimswell on 17th June (TI).

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus* A

0,0,0,0,1

Rare migrant; five previous records

A first-winter delighted over 1500 visitors to Huddy Cows Lane, Buckton from 29th September through to 5th October (RHe: MT *et al.*). Trapped during routine ringing of the site on 1st October, detailed 'in the hand' measurements and photos were taken; several features suggested the *phoenicuroides* race, although it is unclear whether first-winters can be identified with certainty. This was the first in the county since one at Flamborough in November 2000.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* **A**

6,19,12,14,11

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce passage migrant; formerly bred

This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa.

The first appeared at Cattersty Gill on a relatively early 7th May (SA), with none thereafter until the last few days of May. A male was at Chalk Bank, Spurn on 27th (NP*a et al.*), with presumably the same relocated there two days later. Another male made landfall near Old Fall, Flamborough on 28th May and was still present the following day (RB*a*: NEP *et al.*). A singing male was discovered at Cliff Farm, Spurn on 28th May and it remained in the Triangle to 30th (ICW *et al.*). One set up residence in the Wire Dump/Middle Camp area of Spurn from 2nd–5th June (PC*o*: MJ*P et al.*), while the last of spring was discovered at Staple Newk, Bempton on 7th June.



Red-backed Shrike •
Tony Disley

29,11,18,3,7

The first didn't appear until the autumn, when one was discovered at the Warren, Spurn on 28th September (NP *et al.*). Presumably the same bird was then in the Triangle the following day, before it moved to Beacon Lane, where it lingered on 2nd/3rd October. A second individual made landfall at Spurn on 29th September, when one was photographed at Wire Dump. Further north, one spent the afternoon of 29th hunting hedgerows on the northern boundary of the Filey recording area (CCT *et al.*). Inland birders then held a monopoly, with the first such record at Otley Wetland from 9th–13th October (JA *et al.*). The next appeared at Folkton Carr on 14th October (RHA: PW) with another at Stone Creek on 19th October (JWa). The year's last was a highly mobile bird in Langdale Forest near Scarborough on 25th November (DBy).

0,0,1,0,1

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* **A**

A combination of its secretive nature allied to its preference for large oak woodlands tends to restrict records; lack of habitat means it is scarcer at the coast.

increase on 2006. Birds appeared to be on the move in late September, with ten at Old Moor on 29th representing an influx and ten flying west over Fly Flats a day later. Small parties featured at many sites, although eleven were at Wharnccliffe Chase on 4th and 17 at Ecclesall Woods on 16th November.

South of Scarborough it remained scarce along the coast, with singles at Filey on 16th and 20th/21st October and another at Old Fall, Flamborough on 20th October. Further south there was an unusual mid-summer record at Easington on 15th July, but more typical were singles over the Triangle at Spurn on 27th October and another over there on 2nd November.

Common resident. BBS 117/222: -5% (o) 1994-2007, +23% (+1) 2006-07

There appears to have been an increase this year, but it may be a surprise to many that the population has been fairly stable since 1994.

Although a widespread breeding resident, few reports were received, although 47 were at Potteric on 16th January, 41 at Flamborough on 21st and 72 were at Wilthorpe Marsh on 30th January. On 14th February 48 were logged at Broomhill. A roost at Filey Dams peaked at 63 on 24th March. At the year end, a sizeable roost in Gledhow Valley, Leeds peaked at 215 on New Year's Eve.

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

The resident British race *spermologus* is particularly numerous in North Yorkshire and on upland margins, and some high counts were recorded on BBS surveys this year, contributing to a longer-term population increase. Counts were also higher in South Yorkshire.

Peak counts included 900 to roost at Tophill on 6th February, while at the year end 3800 flew north over Tophill to roost on 9th December. In the later half, 500 flew south-west after leaving a roost over Bradway, while 600 were at Eccup Res on 7th December. There were few reports of breeding trends, although it continues to increase in the Malham area. Coastal movement was most obvious at Spurn where 268 flew south and 46 U-turned between 18th January and 1st June; the heaviest passage occurred from early March to early May, with 31 on 8th and again on 13th March and 23 south on 7th May. Autumn passage was negligible, with a cumulative total of 32 flying south at Spurn between 22nd September and 2nd November.

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

The local populations of this Eurasian species are mostly resident, but form communal winter roosts. The long-term population trend is downwards, but counts were slightly up this year.

Although the BBS trend was up slightly compared to 2006 several areas reported a decline. Sixty-five pairs bred in a rookery at Stocksbridge, where 101 had bred in 2005 and there were 184 pairs present in 1999. A possible decline was noted in the Worsbrough area. Maximum roost counts included 2500 in Lingholmes Plantation, Kelk at either end of the year and 1800 at Tophill on 9th December. Spring passage through Spurn witnessed 657 fly south and 174 U-turn, from 25th February through until 22nd May. The highest counts were logged from mid-March and late April, with maxima of 68 on 9th April, 54 the following day, 47 on 11th and 36 on 30th April. In autumn, only 230 flew south and 76 U-turned from 27th August and 16th November, with an isolated high of 72 on 1st November.

Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Has become one of the county's most widespread birds, possibly due to a reduction in keeping activity, and increasingly noted in urban areas. Large gatherings are not uncommon.

Several large three-figure counts were noted during the year, with 400 at Swillington Ings on several dates and 430 in East Park, Hull on 18th January. Another early count was 100 at Ulley CP on 23rd January, while spring didn't deter congregations of 120 at Thrybergh CP on 9th April and 100 at High Royd SF on 18th May. In the latter half there were 260 on Thorne Moors on 26th September, 120 at Scalby Lodge on 29th October and 120 at Treeton SF on 16th December. Numbers along the coast increased in spring, with an isolated maximum of 314 at Flamborough on 6th May. At Spurn 273 headed south between 25th February and 29th May, while autumn

passage was much more subdued, and confined to a mere 46 from 13th September to 27th October.

While many partially leucistic birds were noted around the county, an all-white bird was seen again at Mixenden, Halifax on 25th January.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* **A** 8,9,6,3,9
Rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory and no doubt account for sightings on the east coast.

A single at Bewholme Lane, Hornsea on 26th January later flew south (EJH: RL). The following day two were discovered at Seamer Tip/Star Carr and both were still present on 25th February, with the last lingering until 4th March (DBY: SH *et al.*). One came in off at the Fog Station at Flamborough on 25th February and presumably the same individual was again on the Outer Head on 4th March. Late April/early May has proved to be a good time for passage birds in recent years and again proved fruitful. One tracked north-west at Boulby Cliffs and later Saltburn on 21st April (IJF: GNM: RCT *et al.*) and another lone bird flew south over the sea at Spurn on 1st May (MFS); two days later, one at Wykeham Lakes later headed south (IA: RHA), while a single was on Redcar beach on 5th May (SHu).

The second half proved quieter with one at the Point, Spurn on 26th October later flying north (DH) and presumably the same individual was then at the north end of Beacon Lane the following day.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* **A**
Scarce but increasing resident in west, rare in east. BBS 6/222

This Holarctic species used to breed widely until persecution began 200 years ago. Retains a foothold in the west and recently has increased in the Yorkshire Dales.

There were frequent sightings along the Pennines to the west of Sheffield and a pair bred in Wharncliffe Wood. Nine were noted on 13th September, with six at Howden Edge and three in the Snailsden/Winscar area to the north. In the last quarter, five were present at Upper Common, Sheffield on 4th November. There were 60 records from the Halifax area at 25 different sites and breeding was proved at one site; nine were present at Walshaw Dean on 30th October. Records continued to increase in the Bradford area, especially on the moorlands above Barden, Bolton Abbey and around Warley Moor Res; the maximum was six on 28th June, which were all juveniles. Reports suggested that the population in Upper Nidderdale is doing relatively well, while four were recorded at Gouthwaite Res on 9th September. Likewise, an increase in the Malham area continues and there were three present there in March and September.

Extralimital birds included the following singles: at Lothersdale Road, Cononley on 17th February; over Potteric on 21st April (second reserve record); south-east over Airedale, Castleford on 25th April; in off at Flamborough on 23rd July; east over Millennium Bridge, York on 1st October; in off at South Landing, Flamborough on 8th October; east over North Cave Wetlands on 25th November (second reserve record). Whilst there were frequent records from higher ground within the Harrogate area, the following were more unusual: a single at Boroughbridge on 15th January; one at Ellington Banks on 20th February; two at Quarry Moor, Ripon on 26th March and a lone individual at Ripon on 31st May.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: abundant but decreasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 129/222: -30% (-25) 1994-2007, +37% (+3) 2006-07

British and north European populations have been declining and it has been decreasing steadily in Yorkshire, although 2007 saw an apparent upturn in fortunes.

A roost in cypress trees at Birstwith, first occupied in December 2006, continued to hold impressive numbers in the early months, with 20,000 present during January. Few other large counts were received early on, although 1600 flew north over Cononley Ings to roost on 7th March. Counts in the final half were much higher and included 10,000 roosting at Staveley on 24th/26th August, 4000 feeding at Maythorn on 2nd November, 2000 at Swillington during November and 2570 roosting at Bowesfield Marsh on 6th November. A roost at Flasks Lake was occupied throughout the autumn and held 10,000 on 25th August, 3500 on 23rd September and an impressive 34,000 on 14th October. Two thousand roosted at Bellflask Quarry during October and numbers increased to 5000 on 4th November. Further south, 7000 roosted at Calder Wetlands at Pugneys throughout November, then numbers fell to 5000 by 10th December and all had completely moved on a week later. Numbers peaked at the Wintersetts roost at 6000 on 14th October, although only 600 remained by 24th November.

Several sites recorded westerly visible migration over the Pennines during the autumn. In the Bradford area 11,236 were logged, which was double the 2006 figure. Numbers peaked in the middle of October, with 1069 over Caldene Fields on 14th (4771 recorded in total) followed by 818 over Thornton Moor Res on 15th October (4743 logged in total). Further south, 2248 flew west between 0730-1000hrs at Strines on 14th October and 2770 flew west between 0730-1000hrs over Rod Moor on 20th October, with 1125 similarly over the following day.

In spring, southerly passage through Spurn totalled 3721 between 13th February and 8th May with maxima of 410 on 21st February, 570 on 7th March and 745 the next day. Between 1st July and 1st November, Spurn logged 2452 south, with a high count of 275 on 15th October. In addition, 4880 were noted coming in off between 9th October and 16th November and included 556 on 2nd, 1720 on 4th and 1124 on 5th November. The passage periods was also reflected by an increase in flocks feeding at Spurn with 1300 present on 19th and 23rd October increasing to 3120 on 4th November. Autumn immigration at Filey was more obvious still, with a roost at Primrose Valley holding 5000 on 21st November; it then increased to 8000 by 25th and remained at this level to 7th December, before declining as the year closed.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: abundant resident but has decreased
BBS 107/222: -6% (-10) 1994-2007, +12% (-5) 2006-07

Closely associated with older built-up areas and farms, this species continues to decline nationally, but there appears to have been some upturn in the county in 2007.

In some parts of Barnsley a decline was apparent, but in other areas the picture was better, with at least 30 pairs breeding at Broomhill and a flock of 70 on 7th January. However, the Worsbrough Report commented that they are quite hard to find in the wider countryside and there are no longer three-figure counts on agricultural land. Other January flocks included 40 in Hull on 15th and 41 at Flamborough on 27th. At Stocksbridge there was a noticeable increase in breeding numbers, while the status was unchanged around Bradford. In Scarborough, numbers seem to be reducing around Castle Hill/Old Town, with 10-15 now a fairly standard count. At higher elevations such as at Malham Tarn, records are generally scarce, with only a single bird on 21st October.

By the end of February birds began nest building in an old factory near Cononley, but unfortunately the building was demolished soon after and the nest sites were lost. However, at least two pairs relocated to nearby houses, with one pair fledging two broods. Breeding by a single pair was confirmed for the first time at Rodley NR, but only six pairs bred at Spurn.

Spurn's highest count was 40 on 13th February; there was no visible passage in the spring and little in autumn, with just 34 moving south between 20th September and 8th November. Post-breeding season flocks were augmented by juveniles and 50 were at Harthill Res on 16th June and 35 fed on the pampas grass in the Queen Street Gardens, Filey in late July; a flock of 110 on Mill Hill on 2nd September was Filey's largest count. The Scarborough area produced the best recorded counts with 150 at Scalby Lodge on 14th August and 55 in allotments at Barrowcliff on 14th December. Hummersea hosted a flock of 60 on 23rd August, which included many juveniles.

Of interest, the 2007 CSL Report notes that in the late 1970s a small group of sparrows was discovered living in a Yorkshire mineshaft, 600m below the surface and that one pair even managed to raise three young at this extraordinary depth. One observer commented that as Tree Sparrow populations recovered in his area, perhaps House Sparrows were suffering as a result of competition for nesting sites.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident; very recent population recovery. BBS 48/222

After a population crash between the late 1970s and early 1990s, there has been a recent increase in numbers, particularly in the last two years. 2007 was a poor year both nationally and locally, however, and BBS maximum counts were 3.2 birds per square this year, compared to 4.7 in 2006.

Increases over the last few years have certainly been aided by the provision of nest boxes erected for them. Several colonies have been established around Filey, while the population around Wintersetts has been restored to excellent proportions over the past seven years by a co-ordinated nest box and winter feeding programme; a total of 71 pairs bred in nestboxes, four natural sites were used and a remarkable 465 nestlings were ringed between May 2nd and July 30th, with several additional unringed broods. In the Sheffield area 29 broods were ringed in the year. At the Joseph Rowntree Trust NR this species had rarely been recorded prior to 2006, but can now be seen daily in good numbers and the Bradford area also reported upturns in both breeding success and sites. Less successful was breeding at Spurn, where only 12 pairs bred.

The highest reported early-year count was at Southfield Res where 92 left the southern feeding area to roost on 14th of March. Spring southerly passage at Spurn was light, with only 69 moving south and four U–turning between 2nd March and 16th May. Autumn was different with good numbers observed heading south and in addition, good numbers fed in Church Field, where up to 80 birds were regular. At least 2176 flew south between 7th August and 25th November, with numbers peaking between early October and early November. Maximum counts were 126 on 4th, 109 on 11th, an incredible 1120 on 12th, 164 on 16th October and 137 on 2nd November. Thrybergh CP saw a maximum of 108 on 6th August and at Winterset Res feeders attracted birds consistently throughout the year, with up to 80 birds present on a daily basis during the winter months. There were good numbers at Flamborough, where Environmental Stewardship options have led to resurgence in farmland passerine populations; up to 80 fed on sacrificial crops in November and December. Further south there were 75 at Paull Holme Strays on 30th August. A bird ringed at Cottam Power Station, Nottinghamshire on 6th February 2005 was retrapped at Thrybergh CP (VC63) on 6th January 2006, a movement of 40km.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 196/222: +50% (+14) 1994–2007, –3% (–2) 2006–07

The population seems stable, but the longer term trend has shown a substantial increase. It is the second most widespread species in the county BBS survey.

In the Barnsley area, territorial males included five at Cliff Wood and 21 at Sheephouse Wood. Fifty were at Grimwith Res on 8th March, many of which were singing, and in the Leeds area there were an estimated 40 singing males around Eccup Res and 40 pairs at Fairburn Ings. Twenty–six were singing at Wharnccliffe Wood, Sheffield on 4th May.

The year’s significant counts began with 50 at Luddenden Dean on 2nd January and another 50 at Edge Mount the same day and 60 at Shibden Valley throughout January. There were 300 at Hilla Green, Scarborough on 20th January and 60 at Helmsley on 3rd February. A mixed bunting/finch flock held 100 at Rudston Walk, Hull Valley on 26th February and 159 roosted at Redmires Res on 8th March. A cold snap produced 80 at the Keeper’s Cottage feeding station, Malham Tarn on 18th March. In the latter part of the year, 149 were at Thrybergh CP on 4th September. Forty–two flew south at Fly Flats on 7th October and 178 went west there on 21st October. In the Leeds area, very few large gatherings reported, with over 60 birds at Bank House Farm on 13th November and 50 in Harewood Park on 31st December. There were 200 in a game crop near Deffer Wood, between Huddersfield and Barnsley, from 15th December to the year end.

Vis mig counts in the Bradford area between September and early November produced 2521 birds, the highest tally of 1237 being recorded at Thornton Moor, including a day maximum of 201. Near Sheffield, south–westerly movements over Strines logged 148 birds on 22nd September and 903 on 11th October, both over 2.5 hours. Westerly movements on 14th October included 877 past Strines, with a further 741 seen heading south–west there on 15th October and 500 heading west at Rod Moor 19th October.

At Spurn, spring passage was down compared with the previous two years and southerly movement totalled only 505 birds between 21st February and 22nd May; the majority were seen between mid–March and early April, with a high of 116 on 31st March. There were no appreciable arrivals in autumn and only 215 flew south between 15th September and 8th December; the most on a single day being just 41 on 27th October.

One found dead in a garden in Guisborough on 9th November had been ringed as a juvenile in Warrington in 2002.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* **A**
Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Breeds from Scandinavia east to the Bering Sea, migrants mostly pass through the county to winter further south, but flocks attracted to beechmast will over–winter while supplies remain.

Reports typically varied widely across the county, with good numbers in some and a complete absence at other sites; several areas commented on an increase in garden records. In the Sheffield area, there were up to 300 at Edge Mount in early January, with 200 still on 28th February. However, in Bradford there was a suggestion of a general decline in flock size, with the exception of 100 at Burley on 1st March and other flocks of 20 at Riddlesden and Lindley Wood, 30 near Steeton and Bradup and 60 at Otley Chevin on 20th January; the last of spring was at Riddlesden on 22nd April, where mid–month a male had been in song. Around Cononley a flock at Milkin Hill, Farnhill in January peaked at more than 40 on 28th. In March, 45 birds were at Catlow Gill, Carleton on 23rd. A respectable 160 were in Littlewood Plantation, South Cave during February.

Filey had a peak of 30 on 25th October; with the year’s last in off during a cold snap on 27th November. Malham Tarn held 80 at Pot Hole Lane on 16th November. Later–year records for Bradford included a highest

count of 23 at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 17th November. Visible migration over Bradford logged a total of 100, most of which were recorded at Thornton Moor. In Halifax 42 were at Luddenden Dean on 4th December, but all other counts were dwarfed by a flock at Flax Dale, Dalby Forest in mid–December; with 700 there on 14th December and 550 still present three days later. The highest counts at Spurn were 29 on 3rd, 22 on 10th, 25 on 13th and 24 on 25th October. Between 30th September and 11th November at Spurn, 104 flew south and 11 came in off the sea. At the end of the year there were three counts in excess of 175 around Sheffield, with the best from ‘vis mig’ on 15th October when 243 flew south–west at Strines.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* **A** 1,0,6,5,1
Amber list: rare passage migrant; 54 previous records
Breeds commonly through continental Europe to NW Africa.
Typical in date, a single along Old Fall Hedge, Flamborough on 20th May was the year’s only record (AMA).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* **A**
Common resident and passage migrant
BBS 123/222: +57% (+27) 1994–2007, –17% (–15) 2006–07

A mostly European species that is resident in the county, although there is some seasonal movement and immigration from Fennoscandia. This was another species that appeared to have suffered a reverse in fortunes in 2007.

Whilst BBS studies reveal a decrease, more anecdotal comments within local reports hint at mixed fortunes. For example, although a small decline was noted in the New Earswick area, the population level is still well above that in the recent past. Around Malham Tarn it continues to increase, albeit from low levels. Few areas commented on breeding success, although Spurn recorded a reasonable year, having eleven pairs with many fledged broods.

Notable flocks included 34 at Baitings, Halifax on 1st January and 85 on 21st January at Old Moor. At Mosborough: 80 roosted on 27th January, 150 on 15th February and 90 on 24th February. At least 60 were roosting along the western edge of Thorne Moors on 18th February and 144 were at Redmires Res on 8th March. Larger numbers were in the roost near Yeadon Tarn, with maxima of 300 in January, 500 in February and 300 in March. In August, 500 were at Ulley CP on 12th and a roost on an island at Redmires Middle Res held 123 on 24th, while in September 110 were seen at Harthill Res on 13th. Other notable tallies in the second half included; 100 at Worsbrough on 23rd October; a roost at Yeadon Tarn held 200 in October, 250 in November and 150 in December and 120 were at Tophill Low on 23rd December.

Visible migration at Strines logged 287 south–west during the morning of 11th October and 112 flew through there on 13th October. Nearby, there was a westerly passage of 155 at Redmires Res on 20th October. In Halifax there were 40 at Luddenden Dean on 19th October and in the Barnsley area 52 moved west at Snailsden Edge on 17th October.

Coastal movement included a very poor spring at Spurn, with only small numbers visiting the feeding station and just 575 flying south between 15th February and 8th May; all the highest counts were in March and included 68 on 4th, 44 on 8th, 51 on 13th and 41 on 31st. Autumn passage at Spurn logged 4362 south between 15th August and 25th November. The most substantial counts were in October with 469 on 11th, 524 on 14th, 478 on 15th, 849 on 16th, and 308 on 19th. Movements northwest along the coast in the Skinningrove/Hummersea area in October involved 65 individuals on 15th and 22 on 19th.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* **A**
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 132/222: +108% (+39) 1994–2007, +48% (+13) 2006–07

Britain’s resident race *britannica* mostly winters overseas to the south in France and Spain, but some birds are present year–round in the county, with passage from further north in Britain. There was a significant population increase this year.

In the Cononley area there were records from twenty–three sites, with a minimum of 17 singing males and six successful nesting attempts. There were fourteen breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings, while Winterset Res had 13 pairs holding territory. The population at New Earswick has increased over recent years, although numbers appeared to have now leveled off, while at Potteric this species continues to sustain its higher population level of recent years.

Flocks of up to 60 were reported from many locations, with higher flock sizes including a charm of 150 at Star Carr, Scarborough on 28th January. Around Leeds, up to 100 birds were present near Methley Bridge in February and 100 at Temple Newsam on 20th March. At Potteric Carr a large flock feeding on seeding thistles

at Huxter Well gave peak counts of 100 on 13th August and 300 on 28th August and 1st September. Other larger charms included 270 seen on 30th August at Old Moor, 100 at Cononley Ings on 29th September and 300 on Cudworth Common on 28th/30th December.

Spring passage at Boulby included 250 north-west on 21st April. At Spurn spring southerly passage was considered poor, with 1080 south between 18th February and 5th June, including 197 on 23rd April and 137 on 6th May. Equally, by comparison with recent years, autumn movement was also poor and saw 4083 heading south between 9th September and 6th December. Among these there were very few large counts; the best were in October with 391 on 4th, 424 on 11th, 490 on 15th and 1275 on 16th. Inland 118 flew south-west at Rod Moor on 22nd September.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* A

Scarce breeding resident; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 6/222

Breeds in upland conifer plantations, but visitors to gardens in winter may include immigrants from northern Europe. There is insufficient local breeding data to identify trends, but nationally has increased by 30% since 1994.

There were few breeding reports, although a healthy population was present in the North Yorkshire Moor forests inland of Scarborough. In addition, males held territory at Langsett Banks and Sheephouse Wood and two males were on territory at Underbank Res. In Ryedale, a family party of two adults and three juveniles was seen at Stape on 27th May.

Several locations, such as Winterset, reported the species to be scarcer than normal during the year. However, January flocks still included 30 at Gilling Wood, Ryedale on New Year's Day, 110 at Drewton on 13th and there were 60 at Stockbridge, Bradford. Around Leeds it was a poor early winter, which lacked any large flocks, with a best of 26 at Harewood Park on 26th January. Between 70 and 200 birds were at Barden Bridge during March, the latter being the biggest single flock seen near Bradford for ten years.

In VC62 a flock in Harwood Dale Forest numbered 110 on 15th October, while a garden near Scarborough held 30-40 which regularly fed on cones from 14th October to mid-November. In the Leeds area a flock began to settle by Methley Bridge with 25 birds there on 22nd September; numbers increased gradually to just over 100 in December. Worsbrough had maximum day counts of 133 in November and 150 on 25th December. A flock of 60 was recorded in Wykeham Forest on 22nd November and a similar number were at Rother Valley CP on 29th November. In December, 100 were in the Duchy Woods, Cloughton on 14th, 50 fed in larches in Sheffield city centre on 18th December and 140 were at South Milford Common, near Bishop Wood (York) on 30th December.

There were significantly higher than usual numbers at several coastal locations during autumn, with peak movements at Filey at the end of October into early November; the best there was 73 on 27th October, which included 57 south along the cliffs. At Scarborough 80 passed south over Cowath Beck on 5th November and small parties of up to 30 regularly moved south over Jackson's Bay on 28th November. Higher than usual numbers were also recorded at Flamborough; with a best of 136 on 26th October and November maxima of 83 on 3rd, 272 on 4th and 121 on 12th. At Spurn it was a reasonable autumn, with a total of 3899 flying south and 126 in off between 6th September and 31st December. Spurn's high counts in October were: 296 on 15th, 654 on 26th, 338 on 27th, 165 on 31st. The movement continued into November, with 248 on 1st, 192 on 2nd and 580 on 5th.

Visible migration studies in Sheffield produced a south-westerly passage of 57 at Rod Moor on 22nd September, 275 at Strines 11th October and 567 also at Strines on 13th October. There was an influx of 120 at Redmires Res on 1st November, with 116 moving west there following day. In Bradford, vis mig numbers were up on 2006, with an overall tally of 456, which included 100 over Paul Clough on 20th September and 94 over Thornton Moor on 6th October.



Siskin •
Jack Ashton-Booth

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* A

Red list and UK BAP species: common resident and passage migrant

BBS 95/222: -25% (-27) 1994-2007, -11% (-3) 2006-07

A partial migrant, with some birds wintering in France and Spain. Numbers fell rapidly between the mid 1970s and mid 1980s, due to increased nest failure rates, and have fallen again in recent years.

Outside the breeding season, larger flocks included 60 at Cromer Point, Scarborough from 1st to 7th January and 50 roosting at a traffic roundabout by Pugneys CP on 14th. In the Leeds area, 40 were to the west of Leeds/Bradford Airport on 21st January and 100 were at Lowther Lake on January 22nd. Another traffic roundabout at New Earswick hosted a roost, with 60 present on January 25th. In February, 250 were at North Bransholme fishing ponds on 5th, while 95 were at Flamborough on 6th February and 80 still on 24th. Rodley NR attracted a flock of 100 feeding on quinoa on 10th February. During the first few months, up to 30 were attracted to seed put down for Twite around Soil Hill, Halifax. Numbers increased at several sites in spring, with 120 at Flamborough on 27th April and 70 had gathered at the Blue Dolphin caravan park, Filey by 8th April.

Post-breeding birds included 160 at Flamborough on 22nd June and 150 on 17th August and a flock of 100 at North Moor, Scarborough on 14th July. In September high counts included a very respectable 1200 on 9th at Flamborough and 300 at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 15th. Filey attracted a flock of 275 on 29th September, but these dispersed to leave just 30 birds on 28th October. Inland there were 142 at Thrybergh CP on 28th September. The breeding season appeared to be disappointing and post-breeding flocks poor in several areas, such as at Cononley district, which was no doubt mainly attributable to the very poor summer weather. At the year end a game crop attracted 150 near Deffer Wood from the 15th December to the close of the year.

Coastal movement included 700 birds north-west along the cliffs at Boulby and Hummersea between 17th April and 14th May and Spurn reported a light spring passage; 2804 were recorded south between 15th February and 26th May, with peak counts of 220 on 10th April, 288 on 24th and 409 on 25th April. Autumn passage was again light at Spurn in the autumn, with 3408 flying south between 7th August and 29th November. There were only four day-counts of over 200; 425 on 20th September, 401 on 22nd, 657 on 25th September and 214 on 15th October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* A

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident breeder in Pennines; uncommon migrant/winter visitor

BBS 2/222

Birds of the British race *pipilans* breed colonially on moorlands in Scotland, Ireland and in the South Pennines SPA.

The core populations remain on the Pennines in the Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield districts. In Bradford, there were 35 records, representing a reduction of 40% from 2006; numbers were lower, although nearly half of the records related to the first quarter (there were none in the comparable period in 2006). Conversely, over the final three months there were only two records, as opposed to 30 sightings in the same period of 2006. In Halifax, 126 records were received compared to 175 in 2006, with records from all months, with the exception of December and often related to attendance at feeding stations. Whiteholme had 30 on 7th and 31 on 23rd January, with 34 seen there on 6th February. The highest reported count was 80 at seed in Derby Delph Quarry on 21st August, with several other counts in the Bradford and Halifax areas ranging from 25-30 individuals.

There were very few comments specifically on breeding success with a single at Soil Hill on 10th April and a pair with three juveniles by Castle Carr Road on 5th July. Near Malham Tarn, four were near Dalehead on 30th May, where they probably bred.

Few inland records away from the breeding area, with two near Methley Copse, Swillington Ings on 5th December that then remained to the year end; a third bird was present only on 30th December. In the Ryedale district there was a single at Syckester, Rudland on 15th December.

In the east of the county, nine were at Paull Holme Strays on 26th January, with three there on 9th March. In the north, four were at South Gare on 25th February and singles were recorded at the same site on 5th and 8th April. At Filey, two were at Blue Dolphin on 30th October, followed by another duo near Carr Naze Pond on 3rd November and finally, 45 were around the Top Fields on 14th November. At Flamborough up to 30 wintered through January; numbers ebbed over the next two months, although 18 were still present on 31st March and up to 16 in the first half of April. At Skinningrove, 50 flew north-west along the cliffs on 12th November. Spurn recorded two south on New Year's Day, and a single headed in the same direction on 25th February. In October, singles flew south on 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th and 22nd, six flew south on 16th as did three on 31st. November witnessed six south on 1st and eight at The Warren on 2nd that returned back north. A single was by the Blue Bell on 22nd and year's last were six north on 25th November.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 2/222
Breeds in northern and south-east Britain, wintering to the south. It was found in less than 1% of BBS squares in 2007, compared to 2.6% in 2006, and 6% in 1994, and is now largely absent from lowland areas.

Near Sheffield, breeding territories were at Langsett Banks (one), Midhope Res (two), Sheephouse Wood (two) and Whitwell Moor (two). Around Halifax, one or two males were noted in song flight at four sites between early April and late June, but there were no reports from Bradford. Further north, there were at least six displaying males around Cononley, although successful breeding was only recorded at one site and one or two pairs bred at Malham Tarn. In the north-east of the county a pair bred at Lockwood Beck.

Elland GP held up to 60 in the first three weeks of January, with 30 at Potteric Carr and another 30 at Methley Bridge, Leeds at the month end. Guisborough Forest held 70 on 29th January and Rother Valley CP had at least 30 on two dates in the month. Walshaw Dean recorded 60 on 3rd February, with a flock of 35 in Haw Park near Winterset on February 6th increasing to an impressive 200 by March 11th. The latter date also saw 70 in Spring Wood, High Green. Later in the year, September produced 45 on 25th at Fairburn Ings, with 52 at Flamborough and 80 at Bolton Ings on 30th. In the Bradford area there were 100 in Beecroft Moor Plantation on 5th October, 25 at Lindley Wood Res on 12th November and 70 at Ulley CP 22nd November. Worsbrough Res had maximum day counts of 40 in September, 53 in November and 50 in December.

Visible migration showed some improvement on 2006, with 271 logged over Bradford in total and several good day-counts near Sheffield: 144 flew south-west at Strines on 13th October, with a further 68 moving in the same direction there on 15th and 45 passed westward at Redmires Res on 29th October. Spurn recorded a total of eight between 27th March and 25th April, with an unusual mid-summer single south on 13th June. There was a reasonable autumn passage at Spurn, with 585 birds south between 10th September and 26th November, producing high counts of 113 on 25th, 60 on 29th September, 60 on 3rd and 48 on 15th October. Late birds seen flying south by Spurn during December were one on 9th, two on 12th and three on 28th. At Scarborough the peak count on Castle Hill was just ten south on 2nd October, while 37 went south past Long Nab on 15th October and a flock of 24 moved south over Jackson's Bay on 23rd October.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* **A**
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
This species breeds further north than *cabaret*, across northern Europe, through Asia to North America. Subspecies also breed in south Greenland and Iceland. During eruption autumns, large numbers migrate through or winter in the county.

At least five were in Guisborough Forest from 29th January through to 19th March and three were at Birk Brow on 5th February. Six were present at Luddenden Dean, Halifax throughout January and one was at Walshaw Dean on 3rd February. There was a single in Beverley on 6th February and another at Old Moor on four dates during March. A very tame male, was present in the Crown and Anchor car park, Kilnsea from 27th March to 5th April with another single at Redmires Res on 1st April.

Later in the year, one was at Spurn's Wire Dump on 3rd October and nearby, an obliging male was on Beacon Lane from 3rd to 5th November. Near Halifax, there were three at Denholme Clough on 9th October and two were with Lesser Redpolls at Snaygill on 8th December. Filey CP hosted two on 15th/16th October and in the Barnsley area, eight were near Upper Midhope on 18th October. Scaling Dam attracted two on 13th and 27th November and one associated with a flock of 20 Lessers on Hatfield Moors on 17th November. One bird was with a few Lesser Redpolls in a mixed finch flock around Methley Bridge, Swillington Ings from late November to the year end. At Winterset Res an adult male was caught and ringed in Haw Park on 11th December. A single was at Roils Head, Halifax on 14th December, with three present there two days later. Other December records included two at Tophill on 16th and a single there on 27th and Worsbrough Res hosted two in a mixed flock of Lesser Redpolls and Siskins on 26th December.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* **A**
Scarce breeding resident, occasionally in numbers following irruption years. BBS 1/222
Resident in conifer woodland across the Palearctic and North America, nominate *curvirostra* includes further forms identifiable by bill size and call, one of which breeds in the county, and others may do so following irruptions. This was a good year nationally for this species, although the long-term trend is downwards.

Although recorded in every month there were no reports of any breeding attempts. One over Winterset Res on 6th January was the first record, followed by five at Sykes, Ryedale on 19th. A pair in Harwood Dale Forest on 25th February was the month's sole sighting. The first large count related to 60 at Langdale Forest

on 30th March. Guisborough Forest hosted a single male on 6th April and two showed at Roper Bank on 17th April, five were again in Guisborough Forest on 6th May and ten were in Dalby Forest on 28th May. There were more reports in June, with at least 12 at Cow Hey, Sheffield on 9th, a single over Beckermonds, Upper Wharfedale on 11th and three at Flamborough on 22nd. The same day produced 20 at Sykes, Ryedale and three in Broxa Forest, while two flew over Skelton Castle on 29th June.

Coulby Newham held 13 on 5th July, two were in Westworth Wood on 12th, but Wykeham Forest's 30 on 22nd was the largest total for the month. Elsewhere in July, Ryedale had four at Cow House Bank on 15th, three at Sykes on 23rd and two at Cow House Bank on 29th. Two birds were at Timble Ings on 14th July, with 40 present there in August, while one was at Knotford Nook on 31st August. In September, two were in the Little Don Valley on 13th, 40 remained at Timble Ings and 14 were at Low Park, Ryedale on 9th. On the coast, one was calling over Buckton on 30th September.

Although the numbers at Timble Ings reduced for a short while, by late October between 20 and 30 birds had returned, with 18 remaining until the year end. Four were at Scaling Dam on 2nd October, while in the Sheffield area 15 flew west at Redmires Res on 4th October, with 15 still there later in the month and ten remained on 25th November. October also produced singles at Midhope on 2nd and Snailsden on 17th, while four showed in Beecroft Moor Plantation, Washburn Valley on 5th, 12 were at Wassand on 17th, five were near Upper Midhope on 18th, two headed over Skelton Castle on 19th and two were at Ogden, Halifax on 30th. At Flamborough one was seen on 17th October and Spurn's only record for the year consisted of a single the same day. In November, the Scarborough area saw flocks of 50 on Pennyhowe Moor on 1st and 30 in Langdale Forest on 25th. Elsewhere, there were six in the Sykes area, Ryedale on 5th November, two again over Skelton Castle on 15th, three at Walshaw Dean, Halifax and nine flew south-east at Midhope, both on 16th and a single lingered at Walshaw Dean on 23rd-29th November. The year closed with up to 17 birds at Walshaw Dean in December, 20 at Cow House Bank, Ryedale on 9th and the year's largest flock of 100 at Flax Dale, Dalby Forest on 14th December.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* **A** **3,8,5,8,12**
Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder (first in 1992)
This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century.

The first of three spring records consisted of a male singing briefly at Wire Dump, Spurn on 4th May (PCo). The next was in song at South Landing on 13th May (RBa) and a first-summer male was singing in the Coastguard Cottage Gardens on 21st June (RBa: PC: JMP).

Flamborough hosted two in August; one sheltered along Old Fall Hedge on 23rd (DTh) and another was by Old Fall Steps on 29th (JMP). In September, a first-year bird was ringed at the Warren, Spurn on 18th relocated to Southfield Farm (NP: AAH). Two arrived the following day: one was by the entrance to Easington Caravan Park and Flamborough's Coastguard Cottage Gardens attracted the other (RBa). September's last was at Flatmere on 29th (PAL). In October, a first-year was at the Point, Spurn on 7th (NT); ringed the next day, it remained in the area until 12th. One was at Cliff Farm, Spurn on 10th, and possibly the same bird was then ringed at Kew Villa, Spurn on 12th (PRO).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; scarce passage migrant/ winter visitor. BBS 25/222
Birds of the British and Irish race *pileata* are non-migratory, and the marked decline since the 1970s must be attributable to changes in agricultural practices. Nominate race birds from Fennoscandia ("Northern Bullfinch") can migrate long distances and are occasional east coast migrants.

There were several encouraging reports, including from the New Earswick area, where it has increased over the last seven years and at Old Moor. Elsewhere in the Barnsley district, four pairs bred at Carlton Marsh, while around Bradford, up to 40 juveniles were recorded. Twenty-two were noted singing on Thorne Moors, with breeding confirmed at two locations there. Meanwhile, 25 breeding sites were located near Winterset and 14 juveniles were rung on 22nd July, a further ten trapped a week later and nine more ringed on 5th August.

At Cononley seven were at Carr Head, Cowling on 1st January and 16 were around Old Moor on 7th, 12 were at Sun Lane NR, Burley-in-Wharfedale on 13th and 11 were at Potteric Carr on 16th. Nine were seen at Watton NR on 10th February and 11 were at Bretton Lakes on 23rd February. Up to 15 were present at Worsbrough Res in February.

Paul Clough, Bradford held ten on 20th September, while Worsbrough Res recorded a maximum of 15 in November. A party of eight was along the 'Wagon Road', Silkstone on 9th December and 15 were at Potteric Carr on 21st December. Garden records seemed to be featuring more frequently in several areas, including

Bradford, Cononley and Leeds; in addition, there were several records from a garden in Baildon that hadn't attracted the species in over twenty years.

There was just two records of birds of the nominate race; both at Flamborough, with four on 23rd followed by a single on 25th October.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding resident

This Palearctic species is scarce in the UK (3000 – 5000 pairs) and in long-term decline, and this appears to be the case in the county, where it has disappeared from traditional sites. Occasional migrants are seen on the coast.

A very disappointing year and only reported from a handful of locations. Early on, singles were recorded on two dates near Worsbrough Res; the first at Rockley Ponds on 25th January and the next in Wentworth Castle Gardens on 24th February. In the north, a single made irregular appearances throughout January and February at Hutton, in what appeared to the only surviving remnant of Cleveland's resident population.

Seven were reported from Firbeck in February, although access to this site is now unfortunately restricted. Kings Wood, Roche Abbey hosted a single on 17th March, followed by three on 25th. In August a juvenile was in Wentworth Castle Gardens on 18th, followed by an adult there on 28th; the same location produced the final record of the year when a single was observed flying in to roost on 28th October.

At Spurn, a single initially at the south end of Beacon Lane, moved northwards and then left to the west on 18th October (MC) and at Flamborough one was present in the Coastguard Cottage Gardens from 22nd–25th October (GCh: PC).



Hawfinch ◦
Tony Disley

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* **A**
Amber list: scarce to uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from the Arctic and northernmost Europe.

Stubbles at Flamborough held a wintering flock until 11th April, with a peak of 14 on 13th January. In the north, cliff top fields at Cowbar proved attractive from 23rd February through to 5th April, with a best of seven.

Elsewhere, a single was on the cliff top at Aldbrough on 24th February and one flew south at Spurn on 10th March. The final record in the first half consisted of a singing male at Long Nab, Scarborough on 25th March.

September brought the autumn's first, with singles at Flamborough on 9th and 18th, Spurn from 17th to 19th and again on 22nd. In the north singles appeared at Wasset Hill, Brotton on 29th and South Gare the following day. After the first back at Filey on 21st September, up to seven were then ever present until 2nd November, apart from an isolated count of 15 on 25th October. Other October records included a maximum of three on Flamborough, while Spurn had singles on four dates; three showed there on 5th and two were present on 16th. Away from the aforementioned sites, there were several additional October records: six at Buckton on 2nd; a single at Beacon Ponds on 4th; four at Boulby on 6th; one at South Gare on 13th; one at Long Nab on 15th; seven south over Beacon Ponds and a single at Atwick on 20th; one at Buckton on 21st; four at Boulby on 23rd; a

single at Brotton Golf Course the next day and three south over Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 27th. Numbers increased at Flamborough during November, with a maximum of 19 on 22nd. Elsewhere, singles were at Easington on 4th and Atwick on 26th, with two at the latter site on 15th and three were at Cowbar on 22nd November. The year closed with two at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 1st December and one reported there on 5th. Double-figures featured throughout December at Flamborough, with a best of 18 on 9th.

Inland, 'vis mig' came up trumps with singles over Redmires Res on 20th October (RDH) and over Strines two days later (KC). Unusually, a single landed briefly on rough ground at The Knavesmire, York on 20th December.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon winter visitor; scarce inland

Breeds in the circumpolar arctic tundra, with small numbers in the Scottish Highlands: most of our wintering birds are probably from Iceland.

The year started with 31 at Cowbar on 1st and 2nd January, though these soon dispersed and probably augmented numbers at South Gare, where 35 were present on 25th February. There were only a few records away from northern coasts, with January singles north over Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 15th and at Flamborough on 16th. In February, further singles were at Soil Hill, Bradford on 2nd–3rd and at Spurn. However, by far the biggest flock was at Aldbrough, where 70 were present from 3rd–19th, with 14 still present on 23rd. Three were near Dalehead, Malham on 8th and one still there on 9th, while two were at Thornton Moor Res on 24th. Singles were also logged in March at Filey, Scarborough and Spurn, with the month's best seven at Aldbrough on 2nd.

First to return were singles at Flamborough on 15th September and south at Spurn on 18th. Several coastal locations recorded odd birds during October, with 25 at Spurn the pick on 21st. During November, a single was present at Thornton Moor Res on 3rd and 17th, Spurn logged 33 on the same date, 40 were at Barmston on 4th and after 16 at Flamborough on 9th, numbers peaked there at 60 on 17th. Elsewhere, seven were at Fly Flats, Halifax on 11th (with up to four birds seen there on six further dates), Filey's November maximum related to 18 north on 15th and other large groups included 33 at Atwick on 26th and up to 100 at Ringborough from 9th–30th. An impressive inland flock comprised of at least 50 on Lovely Seat, Wensleydale on 29th November. Numbers at South Gare increased during November, with 26 present on 11th, but the maxima occurred the following month, when at least 90 were present on 11th December.

Good numbers also remained at other coastal sites in December and included 45 at Long Nab on 4th, 50 at Ringborough on 5th, 48 at Filey from 22nd into the New Year and, to the south, a maximum of 52 at Flamborough on 26th. Inland a single remained in residence on the summit of Fleet Moss, between Hawes and Grassington, from 17th December to the year end.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident and passage migrant
BBS 113/222: –10% (–19) 1994–2007, –3% (–5) 2006–07

The population has fallen since the mid 1980s and the trend remains downwards, with the lack of winter seed food availability thought to be an important contributory factor. BBS results this year are intriguing: found in nearly 5% more squares (as a proportion of the total), but at lower densities.

In the south-west of the county small numbers were recorded from the Sheffield Bird Study Group area, while there were 24 males holding territory at Winterset Res. However, around Pugneys CP only occasional single birds were seen early and late in the year, suggesting it may well soon be lost from the site. The sole records at Potteric Carr were a male on 20th May and one singing on 29th June, while two pairs bred at Fairburn. Near Barnsley, there was a noticeable reduction in numbers, attributable to the development of Bolton Ings, a previous stronghold. However, there were still four territorial males along Wagon Road, Silkstone, three at Royd Moor Res and four at Carlton Marsh. Almost all records from Bradford came from Baildon Moor, although two pairs summered in the Glovershaw area and there were clear signs of the first breeding for six years within the recording area. Away from the west, the species appears to be faring much better, with a healthy population on Flamborough benefiting from Environmental Stewardship schemes; elsewhere there were at least 14 singing males at Kettlesting Farm, New Earswick.

In January, flocks near Rotherham included 30 at Ulley 4th and 50 on Brampton Common on 6th, while a sacrificial crop at Flamborough attracted up to 42 birds through January and a flock of 40 fed at the Tip, Filey throughout. Other January tallies included 20 at Low Park, Ryedale on 21st, at least 18 at Wilthorpe Marsh, Barnsley on 30th and 22 at Riverside fields, Hull on 31st. February's maxima included an impressive 87 at Thrybergh CP on 2nd, 40 at Old Moor the following day, 32 at Slingsby, Ryedale on 4th and 25 at Sutton Bank on 24th. The year's largest flock constituted 100 in the Hull Valley at Rudston Walk on 26th February. There

were 14 in Ulley CP on 27th March and 20 at Barnbow Common, Leeds on 25th April. In the later half flock sizes were smaller with 20 at Scalby Beck on 11th October, 32 at Bewholme on 1st December and 50 at North Cave Wetlands in late December. In the New Earswick area, counts exceeding 30 were commonplace in November and December.

Coastal movement at Spurn produced 37 birds between 20th February and 26th April, with five south on 11th April and six on 26th April. The first of the autumn were seven south on 22nd September, but only five more then flew south by 26th October.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **A** 2,1,1,1,1
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn
Breeds from Spain north-east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub-Saharan Africa.

The year's only report was of an elusive first-year bird in the Point Dunes at Spurn on 20th October (JAB: PCo).

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* **A** 0,0,4,0,1
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 57 previous records (59 birds)
A nice spring male played 'hard to get' at Spurn where it was mainly seen in flight in the Point Dunes, near the Green Beacon, on 28th May (AAH: NM *et al.*).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* **A** 0,0,4,2,4
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 59 previous records (61 birds)
Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to the Sea of Okhotsk and winters from Turkestan to south-east Asia and China. There have been a small number of wintering records from Britain in recent years.

A series of records all from the Spurn area, with an estimated four different individuals involved. The first was discovered opposite Sandy Beaches Caravan Park on 28th September (JWo). Two arrived at Spurn on 10th October; the first consisted of a very confiding bird on the beach at post 58 from 10th-12th October (LJD *et al.*). The second was seen briefly at Southfield Farm and presumably the same then showed again on Canal Scrape two days later (AA: JL *et al.*). Finally, one showed well and was photographed in the copse on Beacon Lane on 4th November (JMT *et al.*).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant. BBS 56/222
A Palearctic species which is largely resident in the county, joined by immigrants from Scandinavian in winter. Although the longer-term trend is slowly upwards, BBS counts suggest a slight decrease in 2007.

Several sites undertook a full census including: Fairburn Ings where 96 breeding territories were mapped; Pugneys CP held at least 10 breeding pairs; six pairs attempted to breed at Spurn; 43 males held territory at Winterset. In the Leeds area there were approximately 30 singing males at Swillington, the same as 2006, but at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds and Woodlesford numbers decreased, even though the habitat appeared unchanged. The New Earswick recording area continues to see increasing numbers with three pairs seen feeding young on Bootham Stray. The species is described as a widespread breeder in the Old Moor area, while there were no juveniles at Spurn, a reflection on the very poor summer weather. Lack of set-aside around the Southfield Res/Went Ings area was thought to be having a negative impact on the breeding population. Blacktoft Sands hosted the largest numbers, with 375 males holding territory within the vast reedbed complex.

Higher counts included 20 at Wharnccliffe Chase on 3rd February, 21 at Paull Holme Strays on 11th June and 60 at Old Moor on 16th June. Fairburn Ings had peak counts of 18 in September, 26 in October, 27 in November and 25 in December and at Kettlestring Farm, New Earswick over 70 present in November and December. Bradford noted a reduction in winter flock sizes with a best of 25 at Marley on 30th December.

Spurn recorded a total of 33 birds south between 21st February and 20th May, including a high of eight on 21st February. In the autumn, 94 flew south at Spurn between 5th September and 22nd November, with bests of ten on 10th and 17 on 14th October. Visible migration near Sheffield produced 19 south-west at Strines on 11th October, with 20 also south-west on 15th October, followed by 12 WNW over Redmires Res on 2nd November. At 184, the overall 'vis mig' tally over Bradford was well up on the previous two years, with 101 logged from Thornton Moor Res, including 17 on 6th October. Small numbers passed through Malham Tarn in February/March and again in October/November.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident, not on higher ground. BBS 20/222
Breeds in open-country from the Mediterranean to western China. After a massive decrease between the mid 1970s and 1980s, this species now seems to be restricted to discrete areas of the county containing optimum habitat, but previously under-watched areas being covered by the 2007-11 Atlas will reveal a more accurate picture. Local and national figures suggest that after a poor 2006, there was some recovery this year but still below 2004/5 levels.

Comments from Fairburn sum up the current status: the only record was a single west on 11th August, when not so very long ago 100 regularly came to roost on the reserve. Very few detailed breeding season reports were received, although core populations remain on the Wolds west of Danes Dyke, Flamborough and on the Humberhead Levels, between Goole/Blacktoft and Thorne & Hatfield Moors. On 17th March, six were singing in the Loscar Common/Harthill area near Rotherham, with two singing on 30th. In the Leeds district, sightings came from a contracting area, only one or two singing birds noted at just three sites - near Staxton, Tadcaster Grammar School and Lotherton Hall. Near York, at least six were along the road between Long Marston and Tockwith in late May and 'good numbers' were at West Lilling in June, with ten present there during July.

Outside the breeding season, a sacrificial crop at Flamborough attracted a flock of up to 30 over the first three months. A roost at Clifton Ings held 33 on 23rd February, with 35 present on 22nd March. Buckton had a semi-resident party in October/November, with 26 present on 4th November and a flock of 23 flew south over Southfield Res on 20th November. Birds aggregated at both Beal Carrs and Flamborough in the final months, with an impressive 75 gathering at Beal Carrs by 14th December and up to 30 present on Flamborough. South of York, 40 were near Pocklington on 10th November, with 47 in the Coates Bridge area of Pocklington Canal on 30th December.

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Image: Andy Delighton

Category B

Species recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but not accepted by **BOURC** as having occurred naturally since then.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (N Africa, S Eurasia) BDE*

Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status

Some Yorkshire records occur in the summer and autumn, especially from the upper Humber area. Approximately 300 post-breeding moulting birds of presumably feral origin occur in the Netherlands from late summer and it is possible that some overshoot. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* that leave Yorkshire to moult in the Waddenzee area of Germany may also ‘pick up’ Ruddy Shelduck on their return later in autumn. However, others undoubtedly escape from collections.

Two made a brief stop at Swillington Ings on 8th July and were last seen heading north; what may have been the same duo were present at Methley Quarry on 15th July.

Category E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the BOU category C or E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category. These letters follow the publication of the BOURC’s review of Category C (*Ibis* 147: 803–819).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnetsnus atratus* (Australia, New Zealand) E*

Pairs were present throughout the year at Allerthorpe and at Fairburn Ings; two pairs bred at the former with broods of five and three, though only one and two cygnets survived to the end of the year. A pair built several nests at Fairburn, but no young were raised. In addition, up to three were present all year at Copgrove Lake. A single remained on Hornsea Mere from 10th January to 5th August and one was resident at Castle Howard throughout.

In January singles were at Knotford Nook on 3rd, Peasholm Park on 17th and there were four (including two immatures) at Listerdale Wood on 29th. Two were at Doncaster Lakeside on 15th March and 2nd April and unusually, one came in off the sea before it turned south at Spurn on 3rd March. In May five circled around Swillington Ings on 3rd and four immatures appeared at Beal Carrs on 10th. Two were at Southfield Res on 4th June, with a single present from 7th–21st. Presumably the same was then responsible for sightings at Went Ings on 28th June and at Southfield Res in September. Elsewhere, one was present at Anglers CP from 7th April–24th July. Two were at Potteric Carr on 10th May, with singles present from July to October and again in December.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor* E

Scaling Dam proved a mecca for several exotic wildfowl during the spring/summer, with one present on 12th June and two present the following day. A local collection was presumably responsible.

LESSER WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna javanica* E

A single was at Scaling Dam on 14th April.

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna viduata* E

One appeared on Scaling Dam on 31st May.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* (Arctic North America, wintering along US Atlantic coast) E

In addition to the presumed category ‘A’ individual mentioned in the main systematic list, two white morphs were with Greylags and Canada Geese at Eccup Res in January and presumably the same two associated with the feral geese flock at Harewood for most of the year. They appeared at Eccup Res from 17th–23rd August and on 21st December. Singles were also present at Nicholson’s Lagoon, Ripon on 16th September and at Hay-a-Park on 1st December.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnetsnoides* (NC Asia, Siberia) E*

Two were at Seamer Road Mere in January and February and Farnham GP hosted a white phase individual on 16th and 19th January and again on 12th August and in December. A pair present since July 2006, continued to frequent Scaling Dam throughout 2007.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* (Central Asia) E*

All records involved singles, usually associating with other feral geese. A single appeared at Scorton Quarry on 18th March, Hornsea Mere in April/May, at nearby Tophill Low in April, at McCann NR between March and May and again at Tophill Low in September. In June one remained at Southfield Res from 8th–11th and one was at Lingham Water on 16th. There were no further reports until October, when birds were recorded at North Cave, Blacktoft Sands and Hay-a-Park during WeBS counts. The Hay-a-Park bird was probably also the same individual that was recorded at Lingham Water in October and Nosterfield NR in November and December. Elsewhere, Eccup Res attracted a single on 9th/10th October and 9th December.

MAGELLAN GOOSE *Chloephaga picta* E

A ‘Falkland variety’ female appeared at Nosterfield NR on 18th January and was also present from 1st –5th December.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (E Greenland, Svalbard, Russia) AC2E*

Some of these records may refer to genuine wild birds, rather than birds belonging to the feral population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Eccup Res	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	2	–	–	2
Harewood Park	2	2	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hay-a-Park	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	1	–	–
Hornsea Mere	96	70	4	–	91	–	–	–	94	78	92	60
North Humber	70	318	2	30	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scorton Quarry	–	–	–	16	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Watton NR	19	22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1

Two were present in the Ripon area throughout the year and visited Gouthwaite Res, Bellflask Quarry, Nosterfield, Lingham Water, Flasks Lake, Ripon Race Course, Hay-a-Park and Farnham GP. While in the Leeds area two associated with the feral goose flock at Harewood Park during January and February, with 28 present on 18th March. Three at Leventhorpe Hall on 20th April and one at Eccup Res during the summer may have originated from the same flock. In the Bradford area, singles were at Boothwood Res on 3rd and 4th February, at Ogden Res from 27th March–21st April, at Gorple on 20th April, at Walshaw Dene on 25th May and at Colds Edge Dams on 29th May. During the autumn, a single appeared at Colds Edge Dams on 15th and 16th October. Birds were also reported at Thornton Moor Res and Leeshaw Res also attracted singles during the course of the year, while up to five visited Filey on sporadic dates, most often seen on the Dams.

Elsewhere, singles were at Howden Res on 17th February, Sand Hutton on 12th March, and Thrybergh CP on 5th June; two were at Scaling Dam in the latter half of June and at Beacon Ponds on 8th July. During the autumn, one associated with Greylag Geese at Castle Howard on 2nd October and two were with Canada Geese at Broomhill Flash on 7th October.

CHILOE WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix* E

There were three reports; a male was on Swillington Ings on 31st March and 8th April. Possibly the same visited Fairburn Ings on 7th and was thought to have escaped from nearby Lotherton Hall. Old Fall Flash, Flamborough hosted a single on 22nd June and one was at Hornsea Mere from 13th–16th August.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* (C & S America) E*

Two were present all year on Yeadon Tarn. Elsewhere, one was on Ogden Res, two were at Hebden Bridge on 3rd and three at Nafferton Mere on 21st January. Also in January there were five at Shibden on 2nd and two at Bagshaw Park on 5th. The year’s highest count related to six at Winscar Res on 30th January. In February there were four at Shibden on 20th, while in March singles were at Cononley Ings on 25th and at Ulley CP from 31st through to the end of April. One appeared on Ogden Res on 30th May. The only reports received during the summer were two on Catcliffe Flash in June and July. One was at Shibden on 18th November and the year’s last record was of two at Swinsty Res on 8th December.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys* (C & S America) E

There only report related to a single at Dowley Gap on 7th January.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (N America) E*

A female was present at Hebden Bridge on 10th January and 25th February. In March a female was on the River Derwent at Forge Valley on 24th and a male was on the River Aire at Rodley NR on 25th. What was presumably the same female was also present at Forge Valley on 17th April. In May a male was at Hornsea Mere from 6th April to 8th May, an unringed female was on Winterset Res from 15th–17th.

CHESTNUT TEAL *Anas castanea* E

A male was at Nosterfield NR from 3rd–6th October.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* E

An adult with a red colour ring on its left leg lingered around the Main Street area of Northallerton from 22nd–28th January. In spring, an adult took up residence at Marton, Cleveland from 22nd May and remained until at least 22nd November; it had colour rings on both legs, although one of these fell off during the year.

HARRIS HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* E

One was in the Lea Green area, Malham area in Jan and March; Harrogate on 5th May whilst another, first noted in 2005, was again in the Sharrow area throughout the year. In Sheffield one with jesses was observed at Ulley CP on 2nd September; presumably the same was again present around Ulley on 8th–9th November.

VULTURE Sp. *Gyps* sp. E

A vulture, possibly a Griffon, flew towards Drax power station on 6th February, with one over Scar House car park, Nidderdale on 3rd October.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE *Gyps bengalensis* E

In February one was reported at Brighton on 6th; Foston on–the–Wolds on 8th; at Robin Hood’s Bay on 13th, before apparently being hit by a car near Castle Howard on 15th February.

RUPPELL’S VULTURE *Gyps ruppellii* E

First seen at Sleddale on 8th March, a single settled at Skelton Castle the following day, where it remained until 21st.

REEVE’S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii* E

A female was at Oxclose, Littlethorpe on 9th and 12th November, with a female nearby at Nidd Hall on 17th November.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* E

A male frequented Hawksworth Moor, near Bradford on 27th May.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Para cristatus* E

A male accompanied Common Pheasants near Will Pits Scrape, Thorne Moors on 7th–8th June.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* E

A male that had jesses when it first arrived at a quarry near Leeds in 2004 remained in residence. One attacked a walker on Burnsall Fell in June, another appeared at Bellflask Quarry on 8th July and in December a single was reported in Upper Wharfedale at Yockenthwaite. A known escape continued to terrorise the local Feral Pigeon population of central Middlesbrough from 2006 until 20th April.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* E

One overflowed Staveley NR on 13th April. One lingered around Swillington Ings from late July; presumably the same was then picked up freshly dead by Woodlesford Lock on 13th October.

CRIMSON ROSELLA *Platycercus elegans* E

One remained at Littlethorpe from 10th–14th April.

YELLOW ROSELLA *Platycercus flaveolus* E

One appeared opposite Keighley Police Station on 20th February.

BUDGERIGAR *Metopsittacus undulates* E

One appeared near the Lighthouse at Flamborough on 2nd September and a single sought shelter in Alder Woods, Thorne Moors on 23rd October. After a single over Winterset on 11th November, the final record related to one at large in Silsden on 4th December.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria* E

Saltaire hosted a single on 26th January.

GREY PARROT *Psittacus Erithacus* E

One accompanied the Yellow Rosella and an ‘Amazon sp. Parrot’ in a mass breakout and all three were observed opposite Keighley Police Station on 20th February. Another single was in trees by Otley Bridge on 24th April.

AMAZON PARROT sp. *Amazona* sp. E

One was opposite Keighley Police Station on 20th February and another flew south through Spurn on 26th April.

BROAD-RINGED WHITE-EYE *Zosterops poliogastrus* E

A single remained around the Bay Brambles area of Flamborough from 22nd–29th July.

RED BISHOP *Euplectes orix* E

An adult in breeding plumage was present at Spurn during September.

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH *Vidua macroura* E

A breeding–plumaged male provided an attractive distraction at the Point at Spurn on 17th August.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY/GREEN-SINGING FINCH *Serinus mozambicus* E

One lingered at Filey Dams from 2nd July through to the year end.

Additions and corrections to previous reports

2006 Report Corrigenda

Barnacle Goose: One at Anglers CP on 12th January should have read 12th March.

Egyptian Goose: One at Anglers CP on 1st September should have read 2nd September.

Dotterel: account should have read as follows: – ...and six at Whitgift on 5th May. On 6th, ten were found on the summit of Ingleborough. In autumn, 14 were at Buckton on 20th August and...

Little Gull: singles at Anglers CP on 7th & 9th January; 28th March; 2nd and 5th May.

Yellow-legged Gull: A second–summer rested on the beach at Redcar on 20th May; coastal records north of Flamborough are still unusual.

Black Tern: adult at Winterset on 22nd (not 28th) September.

Common Tern: After first appearing at Anglers CP on 16th April, five pairs bred (plus possibly two additional pairs), although no young fledged, as all were predated by Carrion Crows.

Roseate Tern: Two visited South Gare on 12th July. Post–breeding gatherings took place in the mouth of the Tees, although most accumulated on the north side. September records included an adult and juvenile together at Marske on 5th, with a different adult and juvenile off South Gare the same day. Finally, South Gare recorded a juvenile on 17th September.

Swallow: two at Winterset on 28th March.

Shore Lark: one was in a ploughed field near Hundale, Scarborough on 13th October 2006 (NWA).

Grasshopper Warbler: eight reeling males held territory around Winterset.

Tree Sparrow: 47 pairs bred in nest boxes around Winterset.

Common Redpoll: Two were at Scaling Dam on 7th November and at least two frequented Pinchinthorpe on 20th December.

Hawfinch: One was at Skelton Castle on 22nd November.

Lapland Bunting: Singles were noted at Cowbar on 4th February and 16th–17th March and four were present on 24th October.

Snow Bunting: in Cleveland the flock at South Gare/Redcar peaked at 37 in February and re–established in the second winter period, with a maximum of 50 in December. Likewise at Cowbar, up to 60 were present during the first quarter, with 50 recorded there again in December.

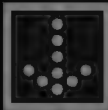
2005 Report Corrigenda

Manx Shearwater: One appeared briefly at Anglers CP, Winterset at dusk on 17th October (KD: PM: PS).

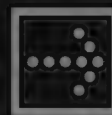


Sedge Warbler ▶ Susan Hepton

Early and Late Dates of Migrants



Species	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Garganey	17th March	30th October
Hobby	14th April	20th October
Little Ringed Plover	12th March	23rd September
Whimbrel	12th April	30th October*
Wood Sandpiper	25th April	30th September
Common Sandpiper	24th March	31st October
Little Tern	18th April	27th September
Black Tern	28th April	25th September
Sandwich Tern	11th March	23rd October
Common Tern	13th April	23rd October
Roseate Tern	16th May	29th September
Arctic Tern	13th April	1st November
Turtle Dove	23rd April	2nd October
Cuckoo	13th April	15th September
Swift	14th April	23rd September
Sand Martin	5th March	6th October
Swallow	14th March	7th November
House Martin	30th March	3rd November
Tree Pipit	11th April	3rd October
Yellow Wagtail	8th April	16th October
Redstart	10th April	24th October
Whinchat	8th April	28th October
Wheatear	10th March	22nd November**
Ring Ouzel	31st March	19th November
Grasshopper Warbler	12th April	6th October
Sedge Warbler	12th April	22nd September
Reed Warbler	21st April	6th October
Garden Warbler	8th April	8th October



American Robin

Gilstead

5th January–13th February 2007



American Robin © Bob Brown

Some four weeks before the news of the first-winter American Robin in a Gilstead garden was broadcast to the nation, an email arrived in my inbox on 5th January. It had been forwarded to me by my fellow sightings blog cohort, Andy Jowett. The email was an account of sightings at Dowley Gap & Hirst Wood from a birder attempting to find the well-publicised and photographed wintering Firecrest. Sadly in the email the birder, Mr John Crawshaw, hadn't found the Firecrest, but had seen one or two interesting birds in the area, Kingfisher, Goosander etc and almost as a 'by the way'an American Robin on the way back to his car!

Further details were requested, and in an extremely honest account, Mr Crawshaw stated that he wasn't 100% certain, but felt it could only have been an American Robin.

With this uncertainty in mind, we only chose to alert a few local birders and subsequently nothing was reported back. Several birders were at Dowley Gap that weekend, including myself, watching the Redwings and Mistle Thrushes rather than the Firecrest and once again there was nothing to report.

At 10pm on 24th January I received another email about an American Robin, only this time there were two photos attached. The email had come from a Bradford Ornithological Group member, who lives in Gilstead, whose neighbour had mentioned a strange thrush in his garden. This neighbour kindly produced the photographs and the email was sent to me. I sat

looking at my monitor screen for a few moments before my brain kicked into gear. A few phone calls later and several birders had passed the word on and a posse was arranged for the following morning.

Rightly or wrongly, we withheld the information from Birdline, as we needed to find out what the situation was, as all we knew was that the Robin was in someone's garden. Dawn broke the next morning and after an hour's search the Robin was found. Not only that, it was easily viewable from the footpaths without any intrusion into or onto anyone's land, so the news was put out.

The thrush continued to delight all comers into the middle of February and provided a suitable bonus for twitchers visiting Farnham GP's Pacific Diver.

Mark Doveston

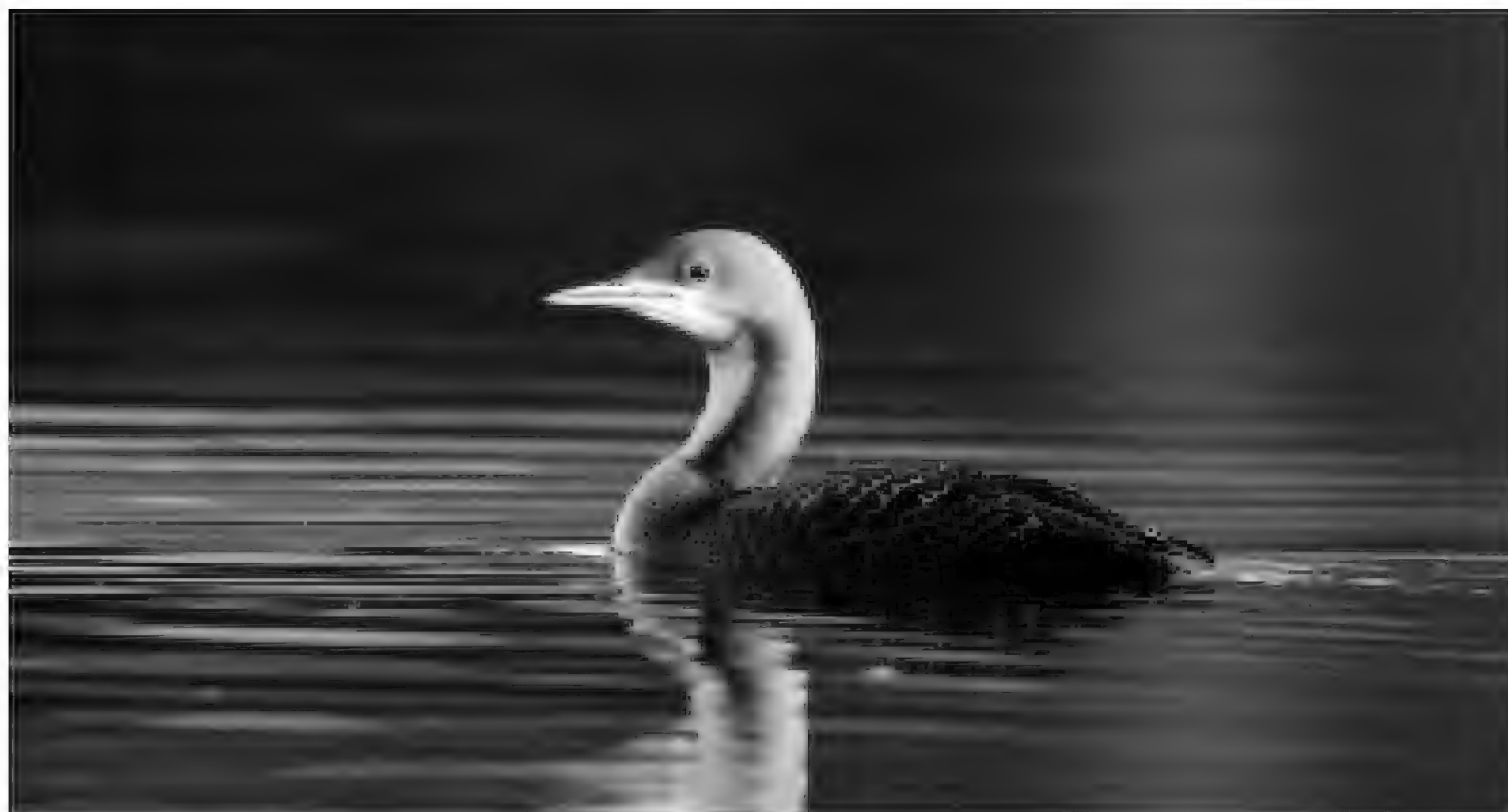
Status

The species breeds across most of North America and winters south to Mexico. Seven races are defined and all that appear on this side of the Atlantic are thought to belong to the migratory form *T.m.migratorius* which breeds in the northern latitudes. Identified as a first-winter female, this continues the recent trend of mainland records including singles at Godrevy, Cornwall in December 2003, Grimsby, Lincolnshire in January 2004 and Peckham, London in March 2006.

Pacific Diver

Farnham GP

12th January–4th February 2007



Pacific Diver © Ray Hall

On the afternoon of 12th January, JE Atkinson located a diver on the south lake at Farnham Gravel Pit which she assumed was a Black-throated. Closer inspection, however, revealed certain plumage characteristics which were at variance with that species, particularly the lack of an obvious white patch on the rear flanks. She phoned JR Mather who was on site at 0900hrs next morning when he was met by JEA and Brian Darbyshire.

The diver was still present and Pacific suggested by JRM due to the lack of a flank patch; further scrutiny down to 30 yards noted several more important features: it appeared slighter in build than Black-throated; there was certainly no white flank patch; the flanks being brown from the lower breast to the tail; the mantle appeared subtly more evenly barred than Black-throated; the hind neck was very pale grey with a dark line running down the side; the cheeks were dusky brown; there was a thin dark chin-strap and the bill was straight, tapering to a fine point. The only feature not seen initially was a bold, dark line across the vent, present in all species of diver, but more pronounced in Pacific than Red- or Black-throated Diver; this important feature was eventually seen well when the bird rolled whilst preening.

Its presence posed a dilemma; clearly it would attract many birders and the official site owners were consulted and stated that they did not want the area invaded by lots of people. However, on 28th January someone advertised the bird's continued presence on Birdline and the following day upwards of 50 birders viewed the bird; staff at a lakeside factory were

approached and permission given to view the bird from there. Due to this turn of events, the local angling club, who are official users of the site, decided to open up access from 30th January. Subsequently many visitors complimented the site organizers on the efficient and well-controlled parking and viewing arrangements.

The diver remained at Farnham until 9am on 4th February, when it took to the air, circled the lake several times and flew off to the north-west.

John Mather

Status

Recent studies have shown that Pacific and Black-throated Diver breed in western Alaska and northeast Siberia, with no signs of interbreeding; as a result, Pacific Diver is now considered a separate species from Black-throated. Essentially a Neararctic species, it breeds east from the Hudson Bay into Alaska and north-east Siberia. In winter it essentially frequents the edges of the Pacific Ocean south to the east coast of China and Baja California. Pacific Divers occur inland in North America and records have increased recently along the Atlantic coast from Maine to New York.

The Farnham diver was accepted as the Western Palearctic's first Pacific; subsequently a second Pacific Diver appeared in the UK, when a first-winter was identified on Llys-y-fran Res, Pembrokeshire on 2nd February 2007.

Brown Flycatcher

Flamborough Head

3rd–4th October 2007



Brown Flycatcher © Ron Marshall

October 3rd dawned overcast on Flamborough Head with a light ESE wind and the promise of rain. After a check of the garden, Phil Cunningham and I set out for a morning's birding. News of two freshly arrived Yellow-browed Warblers nearby filled us with optimism.

After seeing out a light rain shower, the first few migrants appeared including Redwings, a male Ring Ouzel and a couple of Brambling. We arrived at Old Fall an hour later and, as is often the case, the most birds we had seen all morning were in the wood. The rain had stopped and despite being wet, we were in prime position. Phil searched the wood, whilst I checked the fields.

After birding this small area, we met on the north side of the plantation. Phil and I both had brief views of an unusual small flycatcher. We waited for it to appear again with Kevin Barnard.

When the flycatcher appeared in front of us, we were expecting to clinch its identity straight away. None of us were quite expecting it to look like a Brown Flycatcher! Looking back I remember how cool we all pretended to be, and how we were almost in denial of the obvious. Could it be an Eastern Spotted Fly? Were we missing features that would make it a Red-breasted? It was as if we wanted to believe these possibilities rather than the evidence of our own eyes. I decided we needed to rule out all the Asian/Siberian flycatchers, and as we were so close

to home, I strode quickly up Old Fall path in search of the truth.

Having no photos of the bird, I rang Mike Pearson. Andrew Lassey was with him and after hearing my description, wasted no time in finishing his tea and getting down to the plantation. Staring at my bookshelf for help took too much time, so I was straight on to Google Images.

Photos of Brown Flycatcher screamed at me ... I was at Phil's house like a shot where he was coolly making tea, onto his computer and bang! Phil's cool exterior gave way and we abandoned the tea and raced to the plantation.

Down at the wood it took a nervous 30 minutes to relocate the flycatcher. Andrew got some quick shots and we discussed and ruled out species such as Sooty and Grey-streaked. It was time to contact Simon Waines, the farmer of Head Farm. Fortunately, Simon is accommodating in such situations and was happy to have the news put out, providing we managed the crowd.

The flycatcher remained until dark the following day, allowing up to 800 birders views. A car park was opened in a nearby stubble field and £1,000 collected for use of the field, local charities and non-profit organisations. Everyone associated with the twitch had only good words for the behaviour of visiting birders, including Simon, who over the past two years has committed a lot of land to Higher Level



Stewardship. Many birders met and thanked Simon; this positive experience makes a big difference to furthering both conservation and birding on Flamborough Head.

Upperparts

The head, depending upon angle and posture could appear flat, making the eye look large against the plain grey-brown face, especially when seen from below, or when the bird was alert prior to making a feeding flight. Even with these subtle changes in structure, the relative size of the head in relation to the rest of the slim body (when alert) always appeared large, giving a unique shape, unlike any flycatchers we were familiar with in the UK. The eye was circled completely by a narrow white eye-ring, which stood out against the plain coloured face. The eye-ring may have also accentuated the large eye appearance, highlighting the contrast of the dark eye. The head was grey-brown and appeared concolorous with the mantle. The lores were noticeably paler than the rest of the head colour, consisting of a pale grey-white tone. The mantle was a plain grey brown colour. The greater coverts were concolorous with the mantle showing some slight paler feather fringes. The tertials had darker grey black centres (contrasting with the grey brown mantle) with narrow pale feather edges. The secondaries were equally dark, with pale edges creating a subtle pale wing panel. The primaries appeared wholly dark with no pale edging. The tail was plain in colour without any white or paler tail feathers; it was a shade darker than the mantle on the upper tail and in good light appeared to be a darker grey beneath.

Underparts

The throat had noticeable grey brown malar marks on both sides of the head. Each malar sometimes appeared wider at the base of the throat and other times of even width depending on the birds head posture. The breast was a plain pale grey-white merging with a paler white belly, showing no streaking. The contrast between the shades of the breast and belly could only be seen in overcast conditions; in strong sunlight this feature was hard to see. The undertail coverts were white.

Bare Parts

The bill appeared uniformly dark, apart from a pale orange brown lower mandible base. The shape of the bill appeared typical in many side on views, however from beneath the wide base was obvious. The legs and feet were a uniform dark grey-black colour.

Behaviour/Jizz

The bird's general appearance was of a small flycatcher with a relatively large head; the size and shape recalling Pied or Red-breasted, rather than Spotted. Only the cold grey brown colour briefly reminded us of Spotted Flycatcher. The habit of drooping its wings when perched and occasionally slightly raising the tail added to the similarity with Pied/Red-breasted. One of the most noticeable things about its behaviour was its periods of total inactivity. These periods were always followed by active feeding flights and we realised this must be part of the species typical behaviour pattern. In the two hours we were watching and looking for the bird on the afternoon of 3rd, it never strayed from the same small area of sycamore trees, often re-appearing only several meters away from where we had lost it up to 30 minutes previously. It habitually chose open small branches for perches feeding from the tree canopy down to mid tree height, never feeding on or near the ground during our observations. Whilst we could watch the bird down to approximately 15 metres without disturbance, the bird was flushed on more than one occasion when closer or there was sudden noise. The bird appeared in good health and was seen to catch flying insects on more than one occasion including bill snapping. We did not hear the bird call.

Richard Baines

Status

Breeding widely across Asia, the northern form is migratory and winters from India in the west through to the Philippines in the east. There has been one previous record from the UK, when one graced Fair Isle on 1st-2nd July 1992; however, the British Ornithological Union initially placed this record in Category D. Subsequently, this record has been reassessed in light of both the Flamborough bird and a first-winter that made landfall on Fair Isle in September 2008. All three records have now been accepted and the species has been added to the official British List.



September • Sabine's Gull (Flamborough) ► Mark Thomas

Gallery



January • American Robin (Gilstead) ► Bob Brown



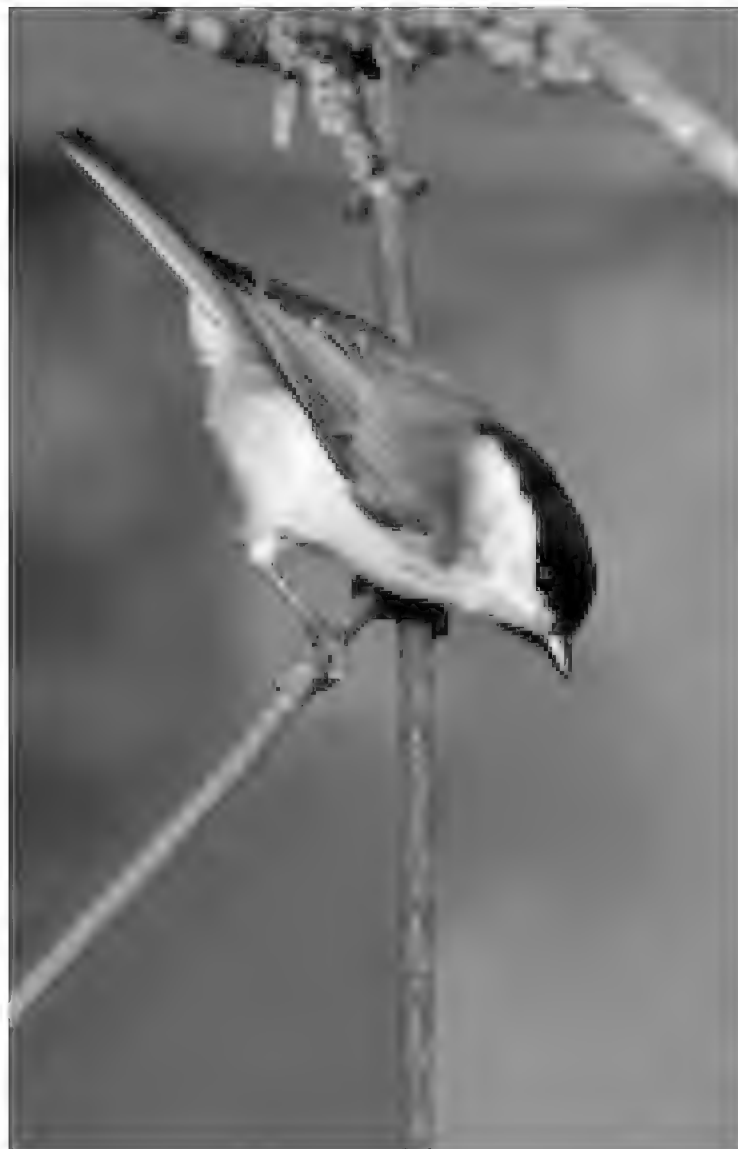
January • Pacific Diver (Farnham GP) ► Mike Ashforth



February • Great Northern Diver (Scarborough) ▶ Iain Leach



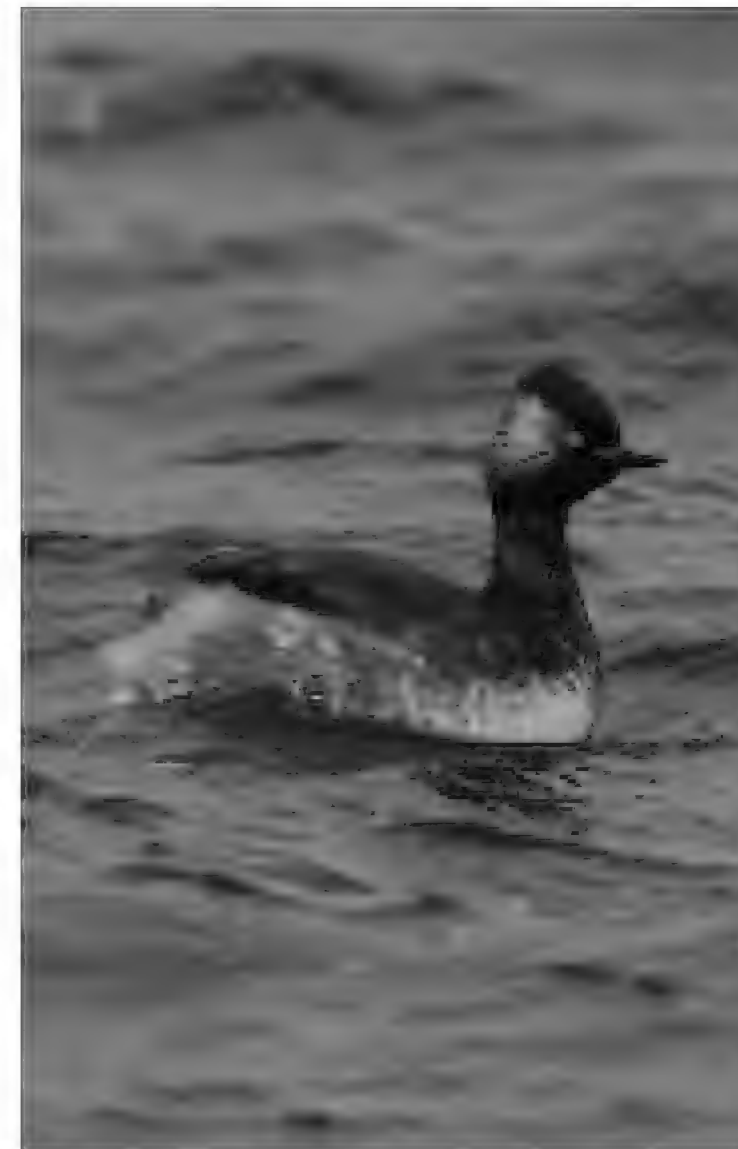
March • Mediterranean Gull (Scarborough) ▶ Iain Leach



February • Marsh Tit (North Cave) ▶ Iain Leach



March • Black-throated Thrush (Buckton) ▶ Dave Mansell



April • Black-necked Grebe (Lakeside) ▶ Dave Mansell



April • Red-necked Grebe (Beverley) ▶ Barry Byatt



April • Little Gull (North Cave) ▶ Mike Ashforth



May • Bar-tailed Godwit (Scalby Lodge Pond) ▶ Dave Mansell



May • Dotterel (Whitley Common) ▶ Dave Pennington



May • Bee-eater (Aldbrough) ▶ Dave Mansell



May • Spotted Sandpiper (Skelton Lake) ▶ Paul Bagguley



June • Red-backed Shrike (Spurn) ▶ Ron Marshall



June • Great White Egret (Tophill Low) ▶ Mike Ashforth



June • Quail (Spurn) ▶ Ian Smith



July • Long-eared Owl (Calderdale) ▶ Sean Gray



July • Night Heron (Fairburn Ings) ▶ Dave Mansell



July • Fulmar (Bempton Cliffs) ▶ Iain Leach



August • Short-eared Owl (West Yorkshire) ▶ Sean Gray



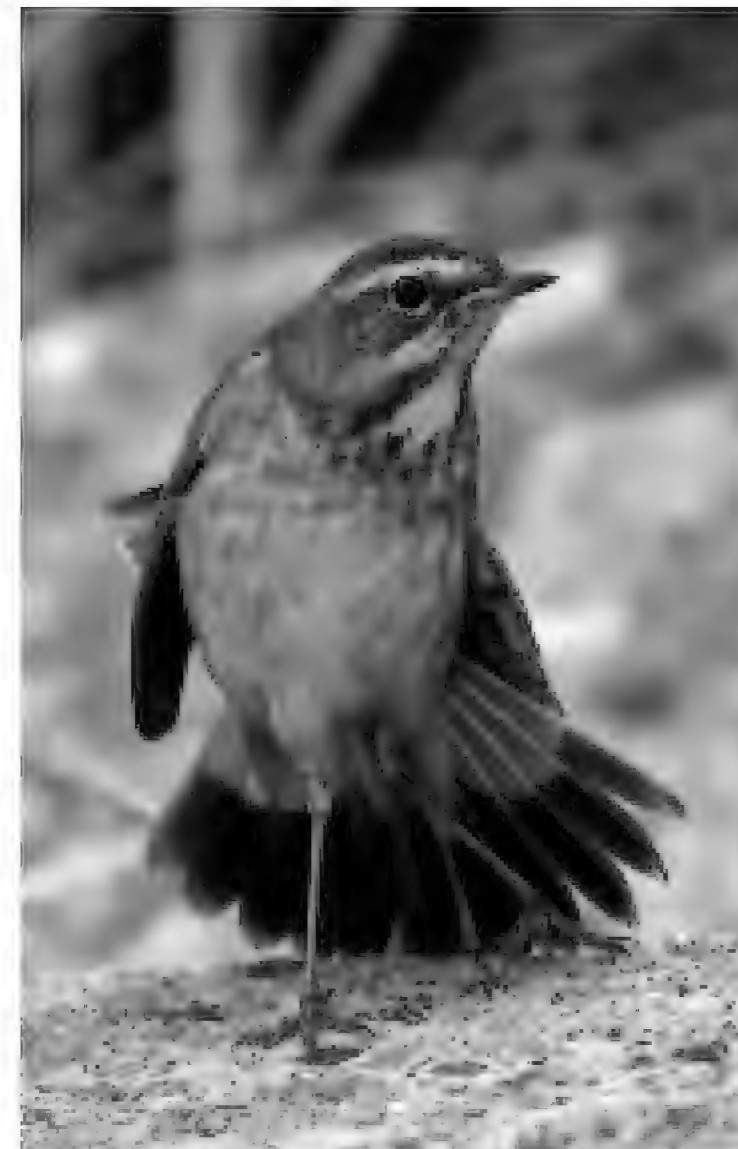
September • Osprey (Saltburn) ▶ Ron Marshall



August • Melodious Warbler (Flamborough) ▶ Dave Mansell



September • Arctic Skua (Bridlington) ▶ Pete Martin



September • Bluethroat (Spurn) ▶ Ray Hall



September • Slavonian Grebe (Anglers CP) ▶ Paul Meredith



September • Sabine's Gull (Flamborough) ▶ Mark Thomas



September • Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Flamborough) ▶ Dave Bryan



September • Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Spurn) ▶ Gareth Picton



September • Pectoral Sandpiper (Dewsbury SF) ▶ Sean Gray



October • Isabelline Shrike (Buckton) ▶ Mark Thomas



October • Yellow-browed Warbler (Bempton) ▶ Mark Thomas



October • Red-flanked Bluetail (Flamborough) ▶ Steve Morgan



October • Brown Flycatcher (Flamborough) ▶ Ron Marshall



October • Blyth's Reed Warbler (Flamborough) ▶ Steve Morgan



November • Desert Wheatear (Burniston) ▶ Ray Hall



November • Little Bunting (Spurn) ► Richard Hart



November • Pallas's Warbler (Filey) ► Iain Leach



November • Little Auk (Filey) ► John Harwood



November • Bittern (Potteric Carr) ► Iain Leach



December • Black-throated Diver (Scarborough) ► Iain Leach

List of Contributors



The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or have contributed to a local report used to compile the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

C Abbott
DR Abbott
P Abbott
D Acrid
R Adams
W Adams
R Adderley
S Adderley
D&A Addey
NW Addey (NWA)
S Addinall (SA)
R Ahmed
J Aistrop
PJ Alker
D Allen
PJ Allenby
R Allinson
KJ Allison (KJA)
AM Allport (AMA)
P Alvey
A Amery (AA)
CE Andrassey
K Andrews
A Andruchiw
RH Appleby (RHA)
A Archer
M Archer
MG Archer
R Archer
J Armstrong (JA)
Prof WG Arnott
M Ashforth
PJ Ashman
D Ashton
P Ashton
J Ashton–Booth (JAB)
IA Ashworth
MRK Askew (MRKA)
R Askwith
B Aspin
HR Atack
R Atkin
P Atkins
H Atkinson
JE Atkinson
I Austin (IA)
M Ayres
W Baggerley
P Bagguley
D Bailey
P Bailey
R Baines (RBa)
A Bairstow
K Balkow

N Ball
L Ball
C Barber
I Barbnes
L&M Bardwell (L&MB)
DC Barker
J Barker (JB)
K Barnard
MH Barnes
R Barnes
M Barnett (MB)
E Barrass (EB)
H Barrett
M Barrett
P Barrett
K Bartlett
C Barwick
S Barwick
P Bateman
D Bateson
JM Bayldon
R Bays
JA Beaumont (JABe)
DV Beeken
D Bell
M Bell
SC Bell (SCB)
MJ Bellas
R Beltoul
L Bendell
GR Bennett
Y Bennett
R Berrington
I Beverage
R Bickford
C Bielby
IS Biggin
T Bingham
RW Bird
SM Bird
P Bishop
B Blackburn (BBI)
MR Blackburn
PA Blackburn
D Blackmore
M Blackmore
SM Blacksmith
CJ Blakeley
M Bland
MA Blick (MAB)
M Bloomfield
B Boize
P Bone
J Bonner

R Boon
AJ Booth
D Booth
R Borwick
A Botterill
Wl Boustead
J Bowers
R Bowles
PK Bowman
K Boyer
B Boyle
DP Boyle
JM Bradley
M Bradshaw
R Bradshaw
G Braithwaite
R Braithwaite
C&L Braham
R Bream
J Bremner
G Briggs
P Briglin
P Brindle
RW Brock
C Brogdale
C&S Broke
D Brooks
P Brothers
H Broughton
R Broughton
RK Broughton
D Brown
J Brown
K Brown
MF Brown
R Brown
J Brownbridge
JA Brownson
L Bruce
E Brunswick
D&S Bryan
BGA Buckle
A Bunting (AB)
P Burke
J Burnham (JBu)
S Burns
RJ Butcher (RJB)
S Butler
M Butt (MBu)
C Butterfield
R Butterfield
J Buxton
B Byatt
DM Bye (DMB)

RJ Bye
D Bywater (DBy)
MP Calvert
S&D Came
R Campbell
J Carbutt–Lang
PJW Carlton
G Carr
M Carr
D Carroll
MJ Carroll
R Carson
SA Carson
C Carter
M Carter
N Carter
R Carter
T Carte
A Cawthrow
P Chalmers
M Chamberlain (MCh)
R&M Chandler
CS Chapman
G Chapman (GCh)
S Chappel
R Charles
TD Charlton
J Charnock
S Chippendale
PE Chisell
G Clarke
R Clarke
K Clarkson (KC)
GM Clay
E Clayton
JE Clayton
T Cleeves
P Cleford
S Clifton (SCI)
EW Clubley (EWC)
D Coate
M Cobley
S Cochrane (SC)
A Cockroft
P Colley
P Collins (PCo)
T Collins
T Collinson
RC Collis
M Constantine
M Conway
S Conyers
M Cook
S Cook

S Cooke
A Cooper
J Cooper (JC)
CJ Cope
B Copley
TI Corbett
M Corner (MCor)
D Cottee
R Coursey
C&R Court
IR Court
M Coverdale (MCo)
T Cowley
M Cowton
M Cox
G Craven
J Crawshaw (JCr)
H Creber
A Credland
R Crosby
J Crowther
PA Crowther
RJ Croxton
M Cunningham (MC)
P Cunningham (PC)
P&M Cunningham
WF Curtis (WFC)
T Dakin (TDa)
JE Dale
BF Damper
G Davies
S Davies
J&TG Davies
R Davis
B Dawson
D Dawson
MH Dawtrey
NC Dawtrey
PL Dawtrey
J Day
GA Dayes
BM Dean
LJ Degnan (LJD)
A Deighton
P Delaloye
L Demaine
G Denison
M Dennis (MD)
K Denny (KD)
J Denney
T Denney
ML Denton
M Dersley
A Devine
AB Devitt
BM Dickinson
K Dickinson
CR Dixon
D Dixon
T Dixon
GE Dobbs (GED)
P Doherty
P Dove
H Doveson
M Doveston
J Dowd

S Downing
P Drabble
A Drake
F Drake
M Drake
R Dresser
R Drew
J Drury
M Drury
PG Drury
W Dudhill
IM Duffy
M Dugmore
PJ Dunn
R Dunsford
K Dutheridge
K Dutton
C Dye
JB Dye
R Dyson
A Earle
N Easton
FL Eastwood
G Edmonds
D Edwards
A Elliott
SC Elliot
G Ellis
WA Ely
M Evans
A Evers
R&S Evison
S Exley
G Facer
L Facer
C Fairchild
R Fairclough
DG Fairweather
MK Fanshawe
K Fawcett
C Featherstone
G Featherstone (GF)
GH Featherstone
T Feltham
MG Fenner
J Ferguson
B Fiendley
DR CH Fletcher
T Fletcher
J Flood
M Flowers
CH Flynn
D Forbes
W Forrest (WF)
A Forsyth (AF)
IJ Foster (IJF)
K Foston
M Francis (MF)
PR French (PRF)
RJ Fuller
SL Furber
JLC Gandy
C Garner
M Garner
MGH Garnett
C Gaughan

R Gaynor
AJ Gear
P Gee
E Gent
G Gent
AJ Gibson
C Gibson
D Gibson
LR Gill
M Gill
L Gillard
KR Gittens
I Glaves
J Glendinning (JGI)
D Goodwin
SJ Goodwin
P Goucher
AG Gough
KR Gould
A Grainger
G Grainger
RA Grainger
J Gramauskas
G Granger
S Gray (SG)
P Grba
R Greasley
PK Greaves
G Green (GG)
J Green
M Greenland
P Grice
PR Griffin
B Griffith
GE Griffith
J Griffiths
S Griffiths
M Grindle
J Grist (JG)
MJ Grunwell (MJG)
S Gwilliam
F Haigh
GL Haigh
G Halden
J Hamilton (JHa)
AM Hanby (AMH)
J Hancox
M Hancox
CP Hansell (CPH)
RE Harbird
J Hardacre
D Harding
R Hargreaves
S Hargreaves
ME Harman
RD Harman
J Harriman
R Harrington (RH)
C Harris
R Harris
P Harrison
N Hart
T Hartley
J Harwood
A Hawkins
M Hayes

A Hayhow
KJ Hayhow
R Hearn (RHe)
EJ Hediger (EJH)
ME Hemmingway
JC Heppenstall
RI Heppenstall
S Hepton
D Herringshaw
W Hesketh
J Hessewood (JHes)
D Heward (DHe)
J Hewitt (JHe)
S Hey (SH)
G Heywood
Ja Higgins (JaH)
Jo Higgins
I Higginson
C Higson
B Hill
RD Hill (RDH)
S Hill
L Hinchcliffe (LH)
C Hine
S Hiner
SJ Hinley (SJH)
JP Hirschfield (JPH)
AD Hirst
DG Hobson
J Hobson
TL Hobson
K Hockridge
MG Hodges
A Hodgkinson
J Hodgson
J Holliday (JHol)
A Holmes
BM Holmes
RH Hopper
ME Hopper
C Horne
T&V Horsfall
J Horton (JHo)
GM Horwood
R Hoskins
D Howard
P&P Howes
B Hoyle
G Hudson
GP Hudson
SL Hull
S Hunt (SHu)
D Hunter
DI Hunton (DIH)
D Hursthouse (DH)
E Hutchinson
AA Hutt (AAH)
A Huyton
C Hyde
JD Ireland (JDI)
PV Irving
T Isherwood (TI)
L Ives
PW Izzard (PWI)
G Jackson
J Jackson

JJ Jackson
B James
HT James
D Jarrold
J Jarrold
I Jennings
P Jepson
AF Johnson (AFJ)
D Johnson
S Johnson
C Jones
F Jones
NA Jones (NAJ)
P Jones
IA Jordan
J Jordan
SM Jordan
A Jowett
T Jowsey
R Kay
T Keeler
A&A Kelly
I Kendall (IK)
F Kennington
JS Kenyon
R Kenyon
N Kershaw
T Kettle
BM Keywood
D&H Kidman
M Kilburn
M Killeen
A King
CJ King
LS King
PC King
DR AMG Kinnear
J Kirby
M Kirby
HR Kirk
P Kirk
S Kitchen
R Knapp
R Knight
R Knock
S Kohler
D&H Kramer
A Krauss
D Lafever
T Lally
J Lane
S Lamb
C Lamsdell
LS Lancaster
M Larner
P Larner
PA Lassey (PAL)
J Law (JL)
SR Laycock
GPK Leach (GPKL)
GY Leach (GYL)
I Leach
JB Leason
G Lee
P Lee
BD Leecy

G Leeming
RE Leighton (REL)
CL Leonard
P Leonard
PC Leonard
M Limbert
M Linnington
J Linton-Smith
JK Lister
SM Lister (SML)
BD Littlewood
A Lodge
M Lonsdale
A Lowe
RJ Lowe
A Lowry
J Lunn
R Lyon (RL)
A MacNicoll
K Mainprize
N Major (NM)
A Malley (AMa)
E Maltby
D Mansell (DM)
P March
P Marsh
Y Marsh
A Marshall
DC Marshall
I Marshall (IM)
D Martin
E Martin
J Martin (JMa)
P&PG Martin
PG Martin
T Martin
P&P Maske
D Mason
JR Mather (JRM)
D McAleavy
L McBride
T McCormick
J McEachen
C McEvoy
T McEvoy
A McInnes
CR McKay
A McKee
I McKerchar (IMc)
J McLoughlin (JMc)
C McNaghton
GN Megson (GNM)
MC Melchoir
P Meredith (PM)
TM Melling
C Mellor
MG Metcalfe
A Mettam
R Mew
DR Middleton
V&K Midgley
F Miles
A Miller
C Milner
H Mitchell (HM)
MG Mitchell

RD Mitchell
S Mitchie
R Moat
V Moat
FX Moffatt
K Moir (KM)
DA Money (DAM)
M Moore
B Morfitt
A Morgan
G Morgan
J Morgan
S Morgan
B&S Morland
J&M Morley
D Morris
PR Morris (PRM)
PW Morris
S Morris
PL Mountain
M Francis
B Mullett
B Murphy
P Murphy
F Murray
FAE Murray
P Nash
WB Naylor
MG Neal
MG Neale
B Needle
JA Newbould
I Nicholson
K Norrie
A Norris
MA Oates
D Odell
H Old (HO)
B Oliver
J Oliver
N Oliver
A O'Neill
C O'Shea
P Ottoway
J Owen
K&E Padgett
A Page
D Page (DP)
L Pannett
G Pardy
J Park
A Parker
EC Parker (ECP)
E&NE Parker (EP & NEP)
R&A Parker
C Parkin
J Parkin
RT Parrish
V Parslow
N Parton
S Pashby
N Patel (NPa)
J Patient
P Patrick
DM Pearce (DMP)
JM Pearson (JMP)

N Pearson
S Pedley
S Peel
DH Pennington
B Pepper
M Perry
J Pewtress
L Phipps
D Pickering
J&R Pickering
N Pickering (NP)
G Picton (GP)
MJ Pilsworth (MJP)
V Pogson
J Poland
C&D Pollard
JA Pollintine
D Pointon
R Pope
N Popham
A Porter
R Porter
JD Postlethwaite
P Prescott
J Preshaw
D Prest
NA Preston (NAP)
D Price
J Price
B Priest
M Priestley
MV Priestly
D Proctor
RH Proctor
M Quinlan
S Race
S Radcliffe
A Raine
CS Ralston (CSR)
A Rands
P Ratcliffe (PR)
L Reaney (LR)
K Reed
R Reed
MN Reeder
J Regan (JR)
P Rex
T Rhodes
W Rich
B Richards (BR)
C Richardson
M Richardson
R Richardson
G Rickers
CM Ridgeway
P Ridsdale
J Riley
P&M Riley
A Roadhouse (AR)
J Roberts
M Roberts
A Robertshaw (ARo)
I Robinson
J Robinson
M Robinson
N Robinson

P&M Robinson
S Robinson
M Robson
S Roddis
P Roe
S Roebuck (SR)
AM Rogers
P Rogers
RB Rogers (RBR)
T Rogers
SM Root
P Roper (PR)
AJ Ross
R Rosser
N Rossiter
K Rotherham (KR)
P Roworth
G Royston
R&P Rumbold
T Ryan
J Sadler
E Salf
P Salter
E Sanders
J Sanderson (JS)
JM Saville
R Scally
DJ Scanlan
PM Scanlan
E Scarfe
PL Scott (PLS)
R Scott
RJ Scott
T Scott (TS)
A Scutt
R Sears (RSe)
JE Seeviour (JES)
G Sellors
NP Senior
JL Sharp (JLS)
M Sharpe
J Shaw
M Shaw
J Shearer
P Sheehan
K&K Shemwell
G Shentall
I Shentall
M Shepherd
V Shepherd
C&D Shields
P Short
G Shortt
T Silvester
G Simon
B Simpson
D Simpson
DJ Simpson
DW Simpson
J Singleton
K&K Singleton
SP Singleton
T Sinnott
A Sissons (ASi)
JW Slack
RS Slack (RSS)

P Slase
B Slater
C Slator
MA Smethurst
DR AHV Smith
GM Smith
H Smith
I Smith (IS)
JL Smith
JN Smith
P Smith (PS)
PJW Smith
BK Smithson
M Snook
AJ Snowden
J Snowdon
LJ Sollitt
T Spall
GJ Speight (GJS)
BR Spence (BRS)
K&K Spencer
J Spencer
M Spradbery
RJ Sprakes
SP St Pierre
D Stables
C Stacey
DJ Standring
M Stansfield (MS)
J Stanton
D Starkey (DS)
L Stead
MF Stead
D Stephenson
P Stephenson
R Stephenson (RS)
HR Sterne
N Stewart (NSt)
M Stirland
CA Stobbs
M Stone
M&F Stone
AJ Stoyle
MF Stoyle (MFS)
MG Stoyle (MGS)
C Straker
A Strangeway
R Strangeway
A Summersgill
B Sumner
DJ Sutcliffe
R Sutherland
K Sutton
RJ Swales (RJS)
A Symonds
P Talbot
N Tasker (NT)
D Tate
A Taylor
B Taylor
GC Taylor (GCT)
P Taylor
R Taylor
RC Taylor (RCT)
S Thackery
JA Thickett

JR Thickett
L Thickett
CC Thomas (CCT)
G Thomas
M Thomas (MT)
A Thompson
C Thompson
J Thompson
D Thornley
P Thorpe
D Thurlow (DTh)
C&P Tinson (C&PT)
R Tite
G Todd
P Tomlinson
A Tongue (AT)
JL Topham (JLT)
D Townsend
PT Treloar
P Trueblood
T Tudor
K Tupholme
S Tupholme
B&E Turnbull
D Turner
V Turner
JM Turton (JMT)
T Tveit
B&M Twist
B Van der Ven
T Vaughan
DJ Venus
B Vickers
H Vilkaitis
I Vine
T Vittery
DM Waddington
M Wade
R Wade
S Wadsworth
SD Waite
L Walduck
ID Walker (IDW)
J Walker
K Walker (KW)
E Wall
G Walsh
D Walters
J Warburton
DPA Ward
J Ward (JW)
JL Ward
P Ward
M Warren
J Warwick
GV Watola
AD Watson
R Watson
T Watson
D Waudby (DW)
B Waugh
AD Weaver
I Webster (IW)
L&J Webster
B Wells
PS Wells

MC Wells
W West
T Wheatear
D Wheeler
PA Wheway
S White
HJ Whitehead (HJW)
M&S Whitehead
IC Whitehouse (ICW)
N Whitehouse
S Whitehouse
D Whiteley
G Whitfield
G Whittam
M Whorley
M&F Widdowson
M Wiggins
S Wignill (SW)
T Wild
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M Wilkinson
W Wilkinson
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DJ Williams
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C Willie
R Willison
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P Wood
K Woodcock
D Woodmansey
D Woodriff
D Woods
M Wooler
K Wooley
PB Wordsworth
SP Worwood (SPW)
GV Wotola (GVW)
D Wozencroft
J Wozencroft (JWo)
J Wragg (JWr)
P Wragg
EM Wright
G&W Wright
W Wright
P Wyatt
M Wyngrove
C Yarborough
L Young
W Younis
A Zabukas
AD Ziemacki



Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and *British Birds*. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for most species on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and other rare species dealt with by the Panel, including all the scarcer non-native breeding species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets *etc*. Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories: **possible, probable, proved**.

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species for which information is required that are known to have bred, or attempted to breed, in recent years in Yorkshire are listed below.

* Gadwall	* Peregrine	* Wood Lark
Pintail	* Hobby	Bluethroat
Garganey	* Quail	Black Redstart
Shoveler	Water Rail	Fieldfare
* Common Pochard	Spotted Crane	* Cetti's Warbler
Black-necked Grebe	Corn Crane	Marsh Warbler
Bittern	Avocet	Firecrest
Honey-buzzard	* Little Ringed Plover	* Bearded Tit
Red Kite	Black-tailed Godwit	Golden Oriole
Marsh Harrier	Mediterranean Gull	Parrot Crossbill
* Hen Harrier	Little Gull	Hawfinch
Montagu's Harrier	Roseate Tern	Common Rosefinch
* Northern Goshawk	* Little Tern	
* Merlin	Eagle Owl	

In the case of the Less Scarce Species (marked* above), the VC Recorder prepares a summary each year for the Panel.

For the Rare Species, recording forms are completed detailing the status, success and site of each pair.

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: p102 – 103, and is on the RBBP website.

Observers may, if they wish, submit records directly to the Panel Secretary, but the normal procedure is to send them in the first instance to the relevant County Recorder who will forward them to the Panel.

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP website.

Write to:
The Secretary, (Mark Holling)
Rare Breeding Birds Panel,
The Old Orchard, Grange Road, North Berwick,
East Lothian. EH39 4QT
Phone: 01620-894037
e-mail: secretary@rbbp.org.uk
website: www.rbbp.org.uk



Detailed site specific information was received for the following locations, including local society/club reports where indicated below; readers requiring additional information are advised to consult the relevant club recorder/report.

Aldbrough 2007	New Earswick and Huntington 2007 Bird Report
Barnsley Bird Study Group 2007 Bird Report	North Cave Wetlands 2007
Beal Carrs 2007	Old Moor Wetlands 2007 Bird Report
Birdguides	Potteric Carr 2007 Bird Report
Birdtrack	Pugneys 2007 Bird Report
Blackmoorfoot Res 2007	Pulfin Bog 2007 Natural History Report
Blacktoft Sands 2007	Rodley NR 2007 Bird Report
Bradford Ornithological Group 2007 Bird Report	Rotherham 2007
British Trust for Ornithology	Scarborough 2007 Bird Report
Buckton 2007	Sheffield 2007
Central Science Laboratories 2007 Bird Report	Southfield Res & Went Ings 2007 Bird Report
Cleveland 2007 Bird Report	Sorby Natural History Society 2007
Cononley Ornithological Group 2007 Bird Report	Spurn Wildlife 2007 Report
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve 2007 Report	Swillington Ings Bird Group 2007 Bird Report
Kettleness 2007	Thorne Moors 2007 Bird Report
Filey Brigg Ornithological Group 2007 Report	Upper Wharfedale 2007 Bird Report
Flamborough Bird Observatory 2007 Bird Report	Winterset 2007 Bird Report
Halifax 2007/2008 Bird Report	Worsbrough 2007 Bird Report
Hatfield Moors 2007	York Ornithological Group 2007
Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society 2007 Bird Report	Yorkshire Birding 2007
Hull Valley Wildlife Group 2007	Yorkshire Dales National Park 2007
Leeds Birdwatchers Club 2007 Report	Yorkshire Red Kite Newsletter 2007
Lower Derwent Valley NNR 2007	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust 2007 Breeding Bird Survey
Malham Tarn 2007 Bird Report	



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Guidelines for Contributors



The *Yorkshire Bird Report* is an annual publication intended as a record of interesting ornithological observations made within the historic county of Yorkshire; for further details of the recording area, please refer to the map opposite. As the Report aims to be an accurate record, all unusual sightings have been accepted by the YNU's adjudication panel or, where applicable, the British Birds Rarities Committee prior to publication.

Manuscripts relating to migration studies, the documentation of unusual sightings, or local patch studies are welcomed, with those submitted subject to editing where appropriate. The editors will gladly discuss contributions with the authors and advise on preparation.

GENERAL

When a bird species is mentioned both the English and scientific name must be given, thereafter, the English name only. English names should follow that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (7th edition, 2006) updated by BOU 2006. Metric units must be used; dates should be in the form 1st January 2008. Numbers one to ten should be written in full, except when used with a measurement abbreviation or higher number, thus: five birds, but 5km and 5-11 birds. Numerals are used for all numbers greater than ten, written thus: 11, 110, 1100 and 11,000.

MANUSCRIPTS

These should preferably be sent electronically as an email attachment to craigcthomas@yahoo.co.uk or mailed on a disk. The text, tables, figure legends (which must be self explanatory) and appendices should be combined in one Word.doc file. A hard copy must be provided with any article that includes tables or graphics. Alternatively, typescripts, original maps and diagrams can be sent by mail. All articles are credited with the authors name.

IMAGES

Original slides, negatives and prints are preferred for professional scanning to ensure optimum reproduction. All relevant images submitted will be evaluated and credited with the photographer's name.

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These should preferably be sent as high resolution (300dpi) scans in a standard format (JPEG or Tiff). Maps should be marked with a scale and a north arrow.

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Every effort is made to retain articles in their submitted form, but the publication's Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes without prior consultation with the authors. All contributors submitting material to *Yorkshire Bird Report* also give permission for its use on the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union website.

It is assumed that all the above conditions have been understood and accepted.

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